

Fulham Chronicle



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Thursday, September 17th 2015

Refugees welcome here says council

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

COUNCIL leaders say they are ready and willing to welcome Syrian and Iraqi refugees to Fulham, amid calls from across the capital for London to take the lead in providing shelter for the many thousands of people fleeing the war-torn region.

Local representatives have urged the government to quickly introduce a secure system for identifying refugee families so that those in need can be offered sanctuary in the borough.

Councillor Stephen Cowan, the Leader of Hammersmith and Fulham Council, said there was a "humanitarian duty" for Londoners to play their part in the resettlement process.

The call comes as the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, prepares for talks with the capital's 33 local authorities about ways they can provide shelter for those in need.

The Prime Minister, David Cameron, has announced plans to allow up to 20,000 refugees into the country over the next five years, amid criticism that the UK should be doing more to resolve the crisis.

And last week, Hammersmith and Fulham Council joined the growing number of London authorities that have committed to finding accommodation for refugees.

Councillor Cowan said: "Like our residents, we have been deeply touched by the terrible plight of people fleeing the horrific war in the Middle East and

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■ **SISTER ACT:** Fulham sisters Linda Metcalfe and Jodie Rae were among the thousands taking part in the Alzheimer's Society London Memory Walk, raising vital cash for dementia awareness. The pair circled the Tower of London alongside more than 3,000 other walkers, while sharing their personal experiences of the memory loss condition. Charity leaders are working to provide a range of support services in Hammersmith and Fulham, where it is expected that increased numbers of elderly residents will be diagnosed next year.

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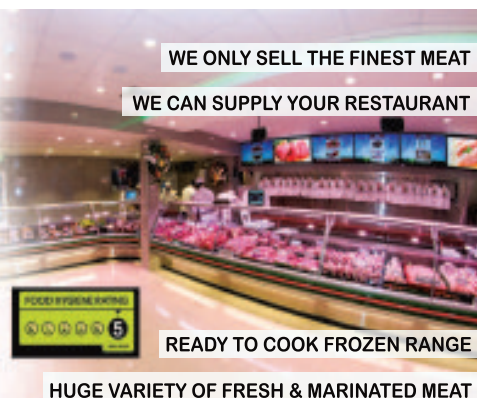
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MAYOR'S DOSSIER EXPOSES FLAWS IN THIRD RUNWAY PROPOSALS

Heathrow expansion plan fails on all levels

THE Mayor of London has described plans to expand Heathrow Airport as failing London and failing the nation on every single level.

He has written to every MP and peer to break the news, buried in the Airports Commission's own report, that even if a third runway was built Heathrow would serve fewer long haul and fewer domestic destinations by 2030 than it does today.

In a damning 30-page dossier supplied to MPs and peers the Mayor's team have pulled to pieces the Airports Commission recommendation that Heathrow be expanded. The dossier's detailed analysis draws on the weaknesses set out in the commission's own evidence; the key findings include:

■ The Airports Commission claims to recognise the importance of securing more long haul destinations to ensure future economic prosperity. However, an expanded Heathrow will offer six fewer daily long haul destinations in 2030 and just a single new daily long haul destination by 2050, when compared to today.

■ The Airports Commission recognises that regional connections to the UK hub are essential, yet with Heathrow expansion their own figures show that only four UK cities will have a connection to the UK hub in 2030 – three fewer than today.



FROM THE
MAYOR'S
OFFICE

■ The lack of additional long haul destinations and the slashing of domestic destinations does not appear to have been factored into the economic assessment carried out by the Airports Commission, and its own independent reviewers say they are likely to have overstated the wider economic benefits of expanding Heathrow.

■ The noise data and assumptions published by the Airports Commission are incomplete and make proper scrutiny

almost impossible. Noise modelling undertaken for Transport for London using more credible assumptions closer to today's operation shows that an expansion of Heathrow will see 33 per cent more people exposed to aircraft noise. It will remain the worst airport in Europe for aircraft noise, with one million people affected.

■ Despite the proposed partial night flight ban be-

tween 2330 and 0600, these proposals will actually lead to one-third increase in flights in the officially recognised night period, between 2300 and 0700. At the same time, the ban will undermine long haul connectivity and deter potential new low cost carrier entrants like easyJet. Only at a location away from densely populated areas could the hub support the needs of airlines, passengers and freight without impinging on the sleep of hundreds of thousands of people.

■ The Airports Commission has failed to demonstrate that a three runway Heathrow will not have the worst levels of nitrogen dioxide in Greater London, even with mitigation, and will risk major European Union fines being imposed on the UK.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "The Airports Commission has spent several years in the production of a gigantic ball of wool that they are now attempting to pull over the eyes of the nation. The figures teased out of their report on the fall in domestic and even long haul connectivity show that as a nation, by expanding Heathrow, we would merely be investing in decline."

"Their report very clearly shows that a third runway will fail both London and the UK on every level. Our great nation is sleepwalking its

way towards becoming a bit part player in the aviation world. Now is the time for boldness. Now is the time to build an airport that can fulfil the needs of every corner of the UK."

In his letter to MPs the Mayor also warns that the Airports Commission's condition that new infrastructure can only be used if air quality obligations are met is a risk that no private investor will be prepared to meet.

With the major airlines already likely to be concerned about an estimated 45 per cent increase in charges it is probable that the owners of Heathrow will need to pass the multi-billion pound bill for a third runway squarely to the Government and onto taxpayers.

In the dossier provided to MPs the Mayor's team conclude that a third runway at Heathrow would simply be too small to meet the long term need, yet impossible to deliver without a devastating impact on the local environment and public health.

They claim that arguments for a four runway hub airport were discarded prematurely by the Airports Commission and the Government should review the full body of evidence presented in this process, and revisit potential locations for a four runway hub airport.



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Sisters take brave steps towards dementia cure

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

TWO sisters from Fulham have joined the fight against dementia by taking part in a unique fundraiser designed to keep treasured memories alive.

Jodie Rae and Linda Metcalfe took a stroll across the capital in support of the London Memory Walk, an event organised by the Alzheimer's Society to raise awareness of the condition.

The sisters joined 3,000 others for the walk on Saturday, September 5, in honour of their beloved grandmother, 91-year-old Chrystalleni Peratikos, who has been living with dementia for several years and can no longer recognise even her closest relatives.

Jodie, 34, and Linda, 26, circled the Tower of London alongside thousands of other families whose lives have been affected by the cruel disease. The walk – the Alzheimer's Society's flagship fundraiser – was designed to encourage participants to share their dementia stories with others.

"Dementia can strip away the person you are and it has been heart-breaking for us and the family to see my nan deteriorate to the point where sadly she can no longer properly recognise us," said Linda. "She has always been there for us and has always been such a strong woman."

"My sister and I have found it so difficult because we have not been



■ **INSPIRED:** Fulham sisters Linda Metcalfe and Jodie Rae joined the Alzheimer's Society London Memory Walk in honour of their grandmother, Chrystalleni Peratikos, who is 91 and has dementia.

able to tell her about our achievements – we know how proud she would be. Our love is still very much there though and will always remain."

Jodie and Linda's experience will have been shared by many thousands of Londoners this year. The Alzheimer's Society's research sug-

gests around 72,000 people are currently living with dementia in London.

Experts are concerned that a further 250,000 people across the country are expected to develop the condition this year, but that local communities are not fully aware of the implications on day-to-day life.

The society is now working to provide a range of support services for Londoners affected by the disease. Dementia support groups are already up and running in Hammersmith and Fulham, while the charity also provides a dementia adviser service for the borough.

Councillor Vivienne Lukey,

Hammersmith and Fulham Council's cabinet member for health and adult social care, said the number of borough residents over 65 who are living with the condition was likely to rise in the future and that this will have an impact on local health services.

She said: "It is imperative that we have the right memory assessment services in place to help increase the number of diagnoses, as well as providing the best possible care through day and community services and to help make Hammersmith and Fulham a dementia-friendly environment."

Siofra Gardner, the Alzheimer's Society's community fundraiser for London, said the Memory Walk had been a huge success, helping to improve everyone's understanding of the disease.

She said: "The funds raised from the London Memory Walk will be used to support people living with dementia and their carers, and to fund vital research into finding a cure."

'We've always done our bit to support refugees'

FROM PAGE 1

other humanitarian crises.

"The atrocities that appear in our media are just the tip of the iceberg causing the biggest refugee crisis in a generation.

"There is a long British tradition of welcoming and supporting refugees and Hammersmith and Fulham Council has always done its bit by offering shelter and support. Indeed, many refugees have subsequently made invaluable contributions to our borough and our country."

"It's critical that the UK government now urgently implements a system to identify refugee families so that Hammersmith and Fulham, and other councils, can do the right thing and provide the necessary support."

Under the government's initial plans, around 4,000 refugees a year will be offered special visas, as part of a relocation scheme designed to rescue vulnerable people from crisis situations.

Boris Johnson has said that he will open talks with local authorities in London to determine how many refugees each borough can find accommodation for.

Hammersmith and Fulham Council, which has not yet set

a figure for the number of new arrivals it could take, is also urging residents to make a financial donation to one of the many charities striving to offer support to the fleeing refugees.

And the calls have been backed by Fulham councillor Ali Hashem, a member for the North End ward, who himself fled conflict in Syria several years ago.

Councillor Cowan added: "Finding homes for refugees is not easy in London where the housing crisis causes dreadful hardship for local people, but we have a humanitarian duty to assist families in such desperate need."

"We know from speaking to residents over recent days and weeks that many stand ready to help us in finding accommodation and to work with refugee families as they arrive to help them recover from their prolonged ordeals and rebuild their lives."

"We are also urging anyone who feels able to, to make a financial donation and to sign the petition calling for the government to take urgent action."

The refugee crisis has dominated international headlines this summer and thousands continue to make desperate attempts to escape the region.

Charities such as the Refugee Council are among the pressure groups pushing for urgent action to protect those most at risk.

Its chief executive, Maurice Wren, said last week: "Each resettlement place Britain provides will be life-changing, if not life-saving, for some of the world's most vulnerable refugees."

David Simmonds, chairman of the Local Government Association's asylum, migration and refugee task group, welcomed the enthusiasm from local authorities to offer shelter but warned against "a short-term solution to a long-term problem."

He said councils needed to make sure new arrivals were given enough support and resources to build a new life in the UK.

"Councils need a commitment from government to provide full funding to support individuals and families until they are granted asylum or they are safely returned to their own country," he said. "Local communities that open their doors at a moment of crisis should not be left to pick up the pieces when funding runs out and the world's attention has moved on."



■ **SAFETY FLIGHT:** Syrian refugees make their way across Greece earlier this month.

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Flexible workforces will beat transport walkouts, firms told

COMPANY bosses in Fulham have been urged to adopt more flexible working practices to make sure business does not grind to a halt in the event of future industrial action on London's public transport networks.

Commuters held up by this summer's tube strikes, it is argued, wasted valuable time racing around the capital when they could have been working from home.

A survey of 1,000 Londoners affected by the strikes in July and August found two thirds were late for work because of the travel disruption. Almost half – 45 per cent – were late by between 30 minutes and an hour on the strike days, the survey showed.

The research, carried out for communications specialist MeetingZone, concluded that more than 1.5 million working hours were lost in total.

BY JACK DIXON
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Hammersmith and Fulham is home to more tube users than any other borough and tens of thousands are likely to have been racing to be at their desks on time, with fewer than one in 10 bosses allowing employees to work from home.

However, senior managers at Fulham firms are now being encouraged to find alternative ways of working for their staff in order to cut the time lost in the event of further industrial action.

Steve Gandy, MeetingZone's chief executive, said both businesses and commuters were being forced to face "unnecessary travel woes".

He said: "It's shocking that in this day and age we are wasting so much time trying to get into the office when we have the technology at our fingertips to make flexible working a reality."

Strike action on the Under-

ground took place over July 8 and 9, and again on August 5 and 6.

There are currently no further strikes planned but union leaders are still pressing for concessions over the imminent introduction of Night Tube services and have not ruled out future action.

According to MeetingZone's survey, almost three quarters of commuters felt their employers had failed to offer flexible working options under the circumstances. Mr Gandy said businesses should make more effective use of technology, such as video conferencing, to enable staff to work remotely during tube strikes.

He added: "Senior managers need to realise the work landscape has changed and stop blocking the adoption of flexible working practices."

"The tube strikes in London should be the turning point for companies to start thinking about flexible working options to reduce the amount of time commuters waste."



■ BIG BITE: A giant edible display outside Westfield shopping centre in Shepherd's Bush encouraged passers-by to stop for a snack on their way to work last week. The billboard-sized feature enabled shoppers to take their pick from more than 10,000 'Nakd' bars arranged by wholefood company Natural Balance Foods.

Picture: Doug Peters/PA Wire

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Police raids end in jail for drugs gang

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SEVERAL members of a drug dealing gang have been sentenced following a series of co-ordinated police raids in White City and the surrounding areas of Shepherd's Bush earlier this summer.

A 15-year-old boy was among seven individuals sentenced for dealing heroin and cocaine, after raids of the White City Estate in July uncovered stashes of Class A and Class B drugs, as well as £24,000 in cash.

More than 160 Met Police officers were involved in the operation, which led to the execution of 10 search warrants at properties on the estate and in the surrounding area.

Drugs squads burst into several homes in the early hours of the morning on Tuesday July

14, having gathered information from concerned members of the community ahead of the swoop.

In August, a 15-year-old boy from the W12 area appeared at Hammersmith Youth Court where he received a year's detention and training order after pleading guilty to supplying crack cocaine and heroin.

Three other men, aged between 18 and 22, were then handed jail sentences for dealing the drugs. And last week, three more individuals, aged between 17 and 19, were also sentenced for their part in the operation.

The Met said the raids had been carefully co-ordinated in an attempt to "stamp out" the problem of drug-dealing activity stemming from gangs.

Detective Sergeant Awad Yasser, from the Hammersmith and Fulham CID, said the sentences were "an example to those who choose to concern themselves in destroying com-

munities and taking advantage of vulnerable residents by dealing drugs".

Officers from the borough's police team were supported by colleagues from other Met departments, including the Territorial Support Group and Dog Support Unit, to carry out the dawn raids in July. Following the swoop, Chief Superintendent Gideon Springer, Hammersmith and Fulham borough commander, pledged to "stop offenders in their tracks" and prevent more victims "falling into their hands".

Last week, he added: "We have recognised criminal activity in the form of drug dealing and associated violence in White City, which has stemmed from gang-related activity."

"This is just one example of how our policing team is working relentlessly to identify criminals who blight the community with behaviour and activity that has no place in our borough."

Fears grow that troublemakers threaten future of the carnival

BY GEOFF BAKER
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TROUBLEMAKERS are in danger of killing off Notting Hill Carnival as it approaches its 50th year.

Following violence, hundreds of arrests and the seizure of a huge cache of deadly knives at this year's event, police have added their concerns to growing calls for Carnival to be moved on, cut back or stopped altogether.

Police say "serious consideration" must be given to the future of the event, moving it to Hyde Park or reducing the festival to one day only, on the Sunday family day, and ending it earlier.

Police also say that if Carnival comes to an end they would not "be disappointed".

The so-called "Europe's biggest street party" has turned into London's leading trouble spot and many, from Mayor Boris Johnson to local residents, are now seriously questioning its future. Carnival, set to mark its 50th anniversary next year, has caused outrage and concern following a surge in the numbers of arrests and the increased menace on the streets during the two-day August Bank Holiday festival.

This year police made 407 arrests – the highest number in a decade and a 55% increase on the 261 arrested at 2014's Carnival.

There were 21 assaults on police – including one officer who was stabbed and another who was bitten when trying to stop a group of men trashing a property.

Police arrested 57 for possession of knives – one knife-car-

rier was only 14 years old – and seized a fearsome range of weapons, including coshes, a knuckle-duster and a machete with a 3ft blade of the style used by Isis terrorists in Syria.

The Met, who have charged 50 people with possession of knives, say the number of weapons seized was double that at last year's event.

The event needed the deployment of 7,000 police officers to maintain public order – at a cost of £6.2 million to taxpayers.

Besides the threat of violence, police had to deal with a shock rise in drug-taking – with more than 3,500 discarded canisters of the killer high nitrous oxide recovered from the mountains of rubbish left on the streets.

Websites and social media pages have been awash with complaints and protests about this year's drink and drugs-fuelled street party. On the Sky News site, many people have called for Carnival now to be banned.

One wrote: "Many people do feel, with good and justifiable reasons, that the Notting Hill Carnival is poorly-managed and has descended into a violent, anti-social, drug-fest."

Another claimed: "If this was the FA Cup Final and every year there were hundreds of arrests, stabbings, fights and the occasional murder, it would be banned overnight. The police have every right to want to ban this event."

Another posted: "This annual crime-fest should be closed down and banned. We are sick of the disturbance."

Now the Met's Police Federation, which represents 26,000 officers in London, is echoing

concerns over the safety and cost of the Carnival event and has suggested a change to the programme at least.

The Met Police's Federation chairman Ken Marsh told this newspaper: "It is not our position to call for Carnival to be banned, but in view of the injuries to officers, the risks to officers and the public from people attending carrying offensive weapons and the disruption to the local community, together with the massive costs to the policing bill, serious consideration must be given to the future of the event."

"A move to a different location such as Hyde Park, or having the event on just one day, probably the Sunday with an early finish time, would all be positive steps, but if the decision was taken to stop Carnival, I don't think our members, or we as a Federation, would be disappointed."

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has also expressed concerns over Carnival following the rise in trouble on the streets.

On the morning after the event the Mayor, who said that he was "not necessarily a massive supporter of the way it's organised", told LBC: "There was some trouble last night. A little bit more than in previous years. Thankfully it didn't get out of control, but 300 arrests is simply too many and I will be talking to the police commissioner about it."

Besides the notorious violence and street crime at the festival, which traditionally draws around one million visitors to the area, where an average terraced home costs at least £1.2 million, residents are also concerned about the huge mess that Carnival leaves in its wake.

Many home-owners and businesses this year invested in boarding-up services to protect their properties against revellers, some of whom were photographed by international press urinating in the streets.

Clearing up after Carnival required a huge staff of refuse collectors and street cleaners who used a convoy of 30 trucks to gather 290 tonnes of rubbish. The cost of the clean-up is divided between Westminster Council and Kensington and Chelsea Council, of which Kensington and Chelsea's share is understood to be at least £175,000.



■ **THANKSGIVING:** The congregation at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington.

Mayor leads salute to Queen's milestone

RESIDENTS and workers joined the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor Robert Freeman, for a special service of thanksgiving at St Mary Abbots Church on Wednesday, September 9, to mark The Queen becoming the nation's longest-reigning monarch.

The service was led by the vicar of St Mary Abbots, Reverend Jenny Welch, and fittingly opened with the only congregational hymn sung at

the Queen's Coronation in 1953 – *All People That on Earth do Dwell*. After the service the congregation raised a celebratory glass to toast Her Majesty.

Councillor Freeman said: "Today is not just about marking a record-breaking reign. That is achieved simply by dint of out-living predecessors. Today is about marking the service which The Queen has given to this country and the Commonwealth

throughout those years. With wisdom and devotion she has not only carried out her duties for longer than any other monarch, but also with selfless dedication and in ways unsurpassed by any previous monarch.

"Today is an opportunity not only to offer hearty congratulations, but also to offer heartfelt appreciation and thanks for so much over so many years."



■ **VIOLENT HAUL:** Weapons taken by police following Carnival.

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A FASCINATING insight into the history of London's legal quarter is being offered later this week.

Temple Church, Middle Temple and Inner Temple Inns of Court will be open to the public as part of the Open House London architectural festival, which runs from September 19 to 20.

This rare opportunity comes as part of a year-long celebration of the 800th anniversary of the 1215 Magna Carta. Organisers say the Temple area of London will be alive with activities for everyone – from exploring the 12th century Temple Church to preparing the barristers of tomorrow with a Children's Court in the Royal Courts of Justice.

Overall opening times are as follows: 10am to 5pm, Saturday, September 19 and Sunday 20.

In Inner Temple a variety of tours will be run for all tastes from architecture to history and artefacts; with a brand new exhibition on the Inns' many members' roles in the rule of law. The-atre group Shakespeare Untold will be performing in the garden.

Middle Temple visitors can learn about the Inn's famous members, from Sir Walter Raleigh to the Duke of Cambridge and will have the opportunity to learn about life as a barrister as well as trying on wigs and gowns. Garden tours will be available throughout the week-end. In Temple Church, as well as an exhibition on Magna Carta, organ and choral recitals and access to the Triforium, the Master of the Temple, The Reverend and Valiant Robin Griffith-Jones, will be giving an informal talk on "The Church of the Templars, Mother Church of the Common Law: From Magna Carta to the Da Vinci Code".



■ HISTORIC INVITATION: London's Inner and Middle Temple will be opening their doors to the public this weekend.

New approach to underground

PROPOSALS have been unveiled to transform the London Underground's troubled Circle line – by installing a high-speed travelator.

A team of architects in the capital have come up with the novel solution, claiming that a three-lane moving walkway through the delay-plagued Circle line's 17-mile circuit could shorten journey times, boost capacity threefold and improve health.

Passengers would step from "feeder" walkways moving at 3mph onto a yellow "slow lane" going at the same speed through stations but accelerating to 6mph and then 9mph in lit tunnels. There would also be a "middle lane", coloured orange, with a top speed of 12mph, and a 15mph red "fast lane".

Britain's first travelator was installed at Bank station 55 years ago. In Paris, a "trottoir roulant rapide" opened at Montparnasse station in 2002, moving at 6mph over 180 metres. It was slowed to 3mph after a spate of accidents.

Stars lined up for city music festival

POPSTARS Ellie Goulding, Carrie Underwood and Mumford & Sons are due to play at The Roundhouse in Camden in this year's Apple Music Festival.

Goulding, 28, will open this year's event on September 19. The line-up also includes One Direction, Take That, Pharrell Williams and Florence + The Machine.

Mumford & Sons, who will be on stage on September 27, told the *London Evening Standard*: "In 2012, we celebrated the release of *Babel* at The Roundhouse, which was awesome.

"We're looking forward to coming back for this year's Apple Music Festival. The first time we played there was in 2009 opening for The Temper Trap and Stephen Fry, and then we were lucky enough to return a year later to collaborate with Laura Marling and Dharaoh Project."

Underwood, who will perform on September 21, added: "Playing in the UK is always such a thrill. I'm really looking forward to being a part of such an amazing line-up."

Other acts include Disclosure, Little Mix, The Chemical Brothers and newcomer Jack Garratt.

Mayor struggles to cut court delays

THE Mayor of London's target to reduce court delays in the capital by 20 per cent is unlikely to be met by the end of 2015, it has emerged.

It takes an average of 164 days for a case to go through the criminal justice system – two days fewer than a year ago. However, the target is 134 days.

In June, crown courts had a backlog of over 9,600 cases waiting to be heard, the BBC reported.

The Deputy Mayor for Policing Stephen Greenhalgh is due to set out a new ten-point plan to cut delays.

Proud moment as capital welcomes 32 new citizens

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, and Chair of the London Assembly, Jennette Arnold, welcomed some of the capital's newest citizens to City Hall when they took part in London's seventh Citizenship Ceremony.

On September 7, 32 new British citizens, one for every London borough, swore their affirmation of allegiance to Queen and country in the City Hall Chamber, where the proceedings were witnessed by proud friends and family and borough mayors.

Each new citizen was presented with a certificate, and a gift of a book about London's highly successful 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games to commemorate their British Citizenship. This year, they also received a scroll of the Magna Carta in celebration of its 800th anniversary, before singing the national anthem.

Among the newest Londoners present were Islington resident Umir

Basal, originally from Turkey, and Barking and Dagenham resident Sauda Parvin, from Bangladesh.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, warmly welcomed London's new citizens.

He said: "London is one of the most international cities on the planet, where our diverse communities make a massive contribution to this city's economic and cultural success.

"I urge all our new citizens to get involved and take advantage of everything London has to offer, contribute to its future success, and help ensure it remains the best big city in the world."

London Assembly Chair Jennette Arnold said: "I am delighted to welcome our capital's new citizens to City Hall, and celebrate the many benefits they bring to the country. Nowhere is this more evident than in London, and this ceremony is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the city's huge variety of cultures, ethnicities and traditions."

The ceremony was administered by Head of Registration and Nationality Services for Brent and Barnet, Mark Rimmer OBE, who said: "I am honoured to be conducting another

Citizenship Ceremony here at City Hall, kindly hosted by the Mayor. It is such a privilege to welcome new citizens to London, and I feel both humbled and proud at the enthusiasm and commitment they display as they become British, and the contributions they make to our capital."

Guests were treated to a musical performance from singer-songwriter Lucy May Walker, who took part in the Mayor's Gigs busking competition this year. Walker performed Guns N' Roses track *Sweet Child of Mine* and her own song, *We Know The Score*.

■ The Mayor has held this pan-London annual event since 2008, to welcome new citizens and encourage them to get involved in their local communities.

■ Citizen ceremonies were introduced in 2004. Each local authority has a legal duty to hold citizenship ceremonies.

■ New citizens who attend a ceremony are required to make an oath of allegiance (or affirmation) and a pledge. Before 2004, oaths were made in private.

■ The oath of allegiance is: "I (name) swear by Almighty God that on becoming a British citizen, I will be

faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, her Heirs and Successors, according to law."

■ The affirmation of allegiance is: "I (name) do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that on becoming a British citizen, I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, her Heirs and Successors, according to law."

■ The pledge is: "I will give my loyalty to the United Kingdom and respect its rights and freedoms. I will uphold its democratic values. I will observe its laws faithfully and fulfil my duties and obligations as British citizen."

■ Citizens received a copy of *Drawing the Games: A Story of London 2012*, commissioned by the Mayor of London. Written by Nicholas Garland, it includes a foreword by Boris Johnson and commentary by Richard Dormer.

■ The event was also attended by pupils from Wykham Primary School, Neasden and Brentfield Primary School, Stonebridge, as part of an exercise to learn more about British Citizenship.



LONDON WIDE



Folk band to launch new album with Tony Christie

SINGER Tony Christie and West London band Ranagri have joined forces to produce an album of 12 of the most well loved Irish folk songs – and they will launch the new offering tonight, Thursday, September 17.

Christie said: "I've had many conversations with Dónal Rogers (of Ranagri) over the years about collaborating on a recording of Irish songs, that we grew up with, and which we used to sit around my kitchen table and sing."

In 2014, Ranagri (pronounced Rana-Grye) were recording their first album with producer Günter Pauler. Pauler shared Ranagri's love of Irish folk music and, following his conversation with Christie's son and manager, Seán Fitzgerald, it was arranged for the veteran singer and Ranagri to record the album. Ranagri are a combination of Irish and English musicians – Dónal Rogers

(vocals/guitar), Eliza Marshall (flutes/whistles), Jean Kelly (electric harp/Celtic harp) and Tad Sargent (bodhrán/bouzouki). Tickets for The Great Irish Songbook album launch are £10 and can be booked online at seetickets.com and nellsjazzandblues.com. Nell's Jazz and Blues Club is in North End Crescent, West Kensington.

■ **COLLABORATION:** West London band Ranagri and singer Tony Christie launch a new album of Irish folk songs at Nell's Jazz and Blues Club in West Kensington this evening, Thursday, September 17. Doors open and the music starts at 8pm. Tickets are £10.



Showcase for best of capital's silversmith

A LANDMARK exhibition of work by one of England's most famous silversmiths is to be shown next month at Koopman Rare Art in West London's Chancery Lane.

Paul Storr silver continues to grace the most important dining tables around the world, from London's Buckingham Palace to the White House in Washington. This new exhibition, running from October 13 to 31, is associated with a major new book, *Art in Industry: The Silver of Paul Storr*, by Christopher Hartop.

This exhibition, which takes the same title as the book, features a dazzling array of more than 200 examples of craftsmanship in silver and gold, the largest grouping of Storr silver ever shown.

Storr, universally recognized as the greatest silversmith of the Regency period, holds a special place in the history of English silver. Son of Thomas Storr of Westminster, he worked from premises in Soho for much of his career.

The workshops he directed, first for the Royal Goldsmiths Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, and



■ **CRAFTSMANSHIP:** A piece of work by silversmith Paul Storr.

later on his own account, wrought some of the greatest silver of the first half of the 19th century.

Timo Koopman, director of Koopman Rare Art, said: "Storr is a byword for quality in silver. In the 21st century silver is regarded as a luxurious accessory to elegant living, whereas 200 years ago it was an absolute necessity and required a major capital investment. Silver was the ultimate status symbol, today's equivalent of a private yacht, jet or top quality car."

The works on display in the exhibition range in date from 1792, when Storr first set up his own workshop in London, to when he retired in 1838, including a few examples illustrating Storr's outstanding legacy.

His career spanned an important period in British history. It was a time of the industrial revolution and the expansion of the British Empire. Military campaigns, such as the Battle of Waterloo, this year celebrating its 200th anniversary, saw Britain emerge as the dominant power in Europe, with a demand for silver to commemorate such momentous events.

Lewis Smith, managing director of Koopman Rare Art, added: "Paul Storr is venerated as much in the United States as he is in Europe. In the post-war period Storr silver was collected by the likes of Arthur Gilbert and Morrie Moss, and there are significant groupings of Paul Storr silver in, for example, the Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond and the Portland Museum of Art in Philadelphia.

"In addition, important collections of Storr's work have also recently been formed in the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific region. We are delighted that so many collectors have agreed to loan items to the exhibition."

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Sue's new role will be no walk in park

IT looks like one of the toughest jobs going in London local government – to be in charge of Notting Hill Carnival, Opera Holland Park – as well as street cleaning, parks, leisure and the arts.

That's the busy and challenging role Kensington and Chelsea Council has just handed to one of its senior officers.

The borough authority this week announced the appointment of Sue Harris as the interim Executive Director of Environment, Leisure and Residents' Services.

ELRS is a varied business group covering vital services like waste and recycling but also major quality-of-life services too, like parks, leisure and the arts.

Currently a director in ELRS, Sue will now assume strategic charge of all its services in the borough of Kensington and Chelsea while at the same time continuing to direct the same services for Hammersmith and Fulham.

Her diverse portfolio will include responsibility for the Notting Hill Carnival, Opera Holland Park, the council's climate change programme and the cleanliness of some of Britain's busiest and most famous streets,



■ **STEPPING UP:** Sue Harris.

including Knightsbridge, the King's Road, and the museum lands of South Kensington.

Commenting on her appointment, Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, said: "As a council leader what one hopes to see when key roles fall empty is a second in command ready and able to step up. In Sue Harris we are fortunate to have just that."

Sue will replace Lyn Carpenter, who has been appointed as Chief Executive of Thurrock, and, in the first instance, her appointment will be on an interim basis.

Born in Bristol, Sue worked for Richmond and Merton before joining Hammersmith & Fulham and then becoming a 'bi-borough' director in 2011. She has led a number of services including waste, enforcement, leisure, parks, libraries and fleet transport. She has also overseen highways, traffic management and arts services.

She maintains an interest in the environment, and whilst on maternity leave wrote a well-received children's book, *Be Your Own Recycling Expert*.

"I am delighted to have been given this opportunity with the Royal Borough," said Sue.

"ELRS have much to do over the coming months and I am fortunate to have a great team working with me. Members want the very best for our residents and I will do all I can to maintain our excellent environmental, leisure and culture services".

In 2011 Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham and Westminster pioneered the UK's largest service sharing arrangements. The three boroughs are today sharing the management of a majority of services, an arrangement that is saving many millions of pounds each year.



NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea



■ **INTELLIGENT VIEW:** In *Designs For Life*, on September 24, from 5pm to 8pm, Imperial College researchers will show how they are applying design concepts to all walks of life.

Appliance of science is a fascination to us all

GETTING stuck into science always seems such a good idea. Proving theorems, conducting experiments and putting formulae to good use are all so far removed from the mysterious art of politics that it really is like opening a window on another world.

So if you, or your family, like hearing about the why's and wherefores of the things that fizz, pop, float and fly, you should check out the council's upcoming selection of free talks and events as part of what we call our Celebration of Science.

Now in its third year, this October's programme ranges from a look at the science, engineering and planning behind Boris Bikes and Crossrail construction to artificial intelligence and astrophysics. There is even a talk on the application of mathematical concepts to financial market analysis.

Highlights of the programme include lectures by Dr Noah Moxham and Professor Dave Garner on Sir Hans Sloane's role in establishing the transactions and proceedings of the Royal Society, and the role that scientific journals play in contemporary science (Monday, October 5); Professor Terry Lyons on the maths and science concepts of financial market analysis (Friday, October 9) and Professor Aaron Williamon on the physics of sound and music, and the physiology of performance (Friday, October 16).

It is one of the great virtues of this borough that we are surrounded by scientific excellence on all fronts.

World-renowned universities, museums and hospitals mean we can have privileged access to some of the world's great scientists in our own Town Hall.

The science festival runs from Saturday, October 3 to Sunday, October 18.

To see what's on, why not visit the website www.rbkc.gov.uk/celebrationofscience

6 **The borough is surrounded by scientific excellence on all fronts**



■ **LOOK AND LEARN:** Imperial College London plays a big part in the Celebration of Science.



To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk



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UNDER THE WESTWAY

Prestigious award gives us golden opportunity in community we serve

Angela McConville, Chief Executive of Westway Trust, celebrates Westway Trust achieving the Investors in People gold award and explains the importance of the status to achieving the Trust's ambitions

IT is with great pleasure that I can announce that Westway Trust has been awarded the Investors in People gold award. This is achieved by only the top one per cent of organisations that gain Investors in People accreditation.

This all sounds very positive, but what is Investors in People and how does it make a difference to Westway Trust achieving its long-term plans and maximising the benefits to the community?

Our 2030 vision is only possible if we continue to develop a high quality, fit for purpose organisation – one where staff feel valued and empowered to collaborate closely with the community in ensuring that this vibrant part of London thrives.

Investors in People is an internationally recognised kitemark for how an organisation manages its people. Experts independently assess organisations – both public and private – on what it takes to lead, support and manage people well for overall success.

The Investors in People standard is underpinned by a rigorous assessment, which reflects the very latest workplace trends, essential skills and effective structures required to perform in any industry.

I can personally verify that they certainly put us through our paces to achieve our gold award. My opening interview with the assessor ran to two and half hours and her questioning was really in-depth and challenging.

Weeks of in-depth interviews with staff, volunteers and

trustees and a huge amount of supporting evidence were produced by our teams about the working practices of Westway Trust. I would like to formally record my thanks to everyone involved in helping us achieve this award.

Investors in People has helped us to understand more about where we can improve our performance and do a better job.

The results are interesting. Instinctively we know Westway Trust employees are proud of the difference they make in their local community and are passionate about its continued success. The accreditation process has highlighted passion and commitment as a real strength of our team, which is very satisfying to hear.

I want to share some aspects of the report that made me feel particularly proud.

"Westway's whole ethos is about improving the relationship between the Trust and the community they support ... Fantastic examples of this are the events that take place as well as the sports offering in order to improve the health and wellbeing of the community" – Investors in People Assessment Report for Westway Trust, August 2015.

"The majority of people that work for Westway believe the Trust is a great place to work and are committed to its future success..."

We also scored highly on rewarding staff and ensuring our people feel valued. Introducing the London Living Wage; investing in young apprenticeships; our emphasis on a healthy workforce; and offering career progression at all levels were cited as positive examples of valuing staff performance.

Sharing of knowledge and good practices across our different teams was also a highlight.

All of which means our people and teams are highly motivated and will go the extra mile when working for the Trust. Isn't that what every organisation aspires to? Having a highly motivated staff team is a key ingredient for the Trust's success and we are determined to maintain high levels of motivation into the future.

To stay ahead and maintain our high performance, Investors in People suggested more staff involvement in developing programmes that benefit the community programmes; giving people more responsibility for performance management and introducing more recognition schemes.

All of which are exciting options and ones we will review as a management team and share with our Trustees.

To the community we serve and the wider world, why does Investors in People matter?

Our motivation for seeking to achieve the Investors in People standard is part of our broader ambition to ensuring the Westway Trust makes the very best of the great opportunity we hold to work with the community and develop the area for the benefit of local people, charities and businesses.

To achieve our ambitions, we continually strive to maximise our commitments to local communities, whilst upholding our charitable objectives and safeguarding a sustainable organisation into the future.

Having an expert, efficient and highly motivated team in place is essential to delivering these goals.

Successful organisations across the world use Investors in People to improve standards of governance, leadership and performance.

I am proud that we stand next to some of the top performing organisations internationally, it means we have a strong platform to realise our ambitions for the next 15 years and beyond.



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On your bikes for ride through borough

YOU can enjoy a Saturday morning cycle through Kensington and Chelsea – taking in the various sights and tastes associated with the borough's street markets before finishing at Portobello and Golborne Market.

Two marshalled six-mile bike rides take place on Saturday, September 26 and Saturday, October 17, and are ideal for

building cycling confidence.

The rides will start at 11am at the Duke of York Square Fine Food Market. Then they will wind their way to South Kensington Farmers' Market before going on to Notting Hill Gate Market.

The cyclists will arrive at Portobello and Golborne Market around 1.30pm where they will be able to sample

selected produce from stallholders and help celebrate the market's 150th anniversary. Booking is essential and each group is limited to 35 participants. Tickets, which cost £5, should be purchased in advance.

For more information and to book your ticket go to www.bikeminded.org/whats-on or email cycling@rbkc.gov.uk

Capital's top spots to get best GP care

KENSINGTON & Chelsea, Queen's Park and Paddington are the best areas in London to visit the GP.

That's the conclusion of new analysis of data from NHS England's GP Patient Survey by the older people's charity Independent Age.

The figures reveal in London: ■ GP surgeries in the West London Clinical Commissioning Group, which encompasses Kensington & Chelsea, Queen's Park and Paddington, came out on top in 12 of the 26 questions evaluated by Independent Age.

■ Patients in these areas were the most likely to be able to get through to their GP surgery on the phone, with four-fifths (81%) rating it very or fairly easy and also reported the best overall experience of making an appointment, with 79% rating it good or very good.

■ A large majority of patients in the West London CCG also rated their GP good or very good at listening (88% – joint with Wandsworth), explaining tests and treatments (83% – joint with Richmond), involving the pa-

tient in decisions about care (75% joint with Wandsworth) and treating the patient with care and concern (84% joint with Richmond).

■ Patients in Richmond had the most confidence and trust in their GP, with two-thirds (65%) saying they "definitely" did.

■ The most recommended GP surgeries can be found in Wandsworth, as eight in 10 (82%) would recommend theirs.

■ Almost nine in 10 (86%) patients in West London, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth rated the overall experience of their GP surgery as good or very good.

■ The best place to go for out-of-hours care is Lewisham, with 74% of patients rating their overall experience of their GP's out-of-hours service as very or fairly good and eight in 10 (81%) saying they had confidence and trust in their clinician.

The study supports the launch of a new free guide by Independent Age entitled *Your health and the NHS*, which helps patients get the NHS care they need as they grow older.



■ **LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT:** London Fire Brigade Commissioner Ron Dobson, and Fuller's brewery chief executive Simon Emeny inspect The Hydrant's fire extinguisher lamp shades at the pub opening event.

Refurbished pub opens in blaze of glory

LONDON Fire Brigade Commissioner Ron Dobson was guest of honour at the opening of The Hydrant pub, next to the capital's monument to the Great Fire of London.

The Hydrant, formerly The Fine Line, is owned by brewers Fuller, Smith & Turner, who say it will offer "a great range of craft beer and delicious food to City workers, residents and tourists".

Donations were made, at the commissioner's request, to the Fire Fighters Charity and the Children's Burns Trust. In addition,

Fuller's will be making a donation to the Fire Fighters Charity for every Hydrant Screwdriver sold from the pub's cocktail menu during the inn's first year.

The Hydrant has undergone a nine-week transformation that included the building of a brand new cellar to cater for the site's improved craft beer range. An extended upper gallery, more window-side tables and a private dining room are also new additions to the pub.

Mr Dobson said: "I'd like to thank Fuller's for inviting me to

open The Hydrant and for kindly donating money to two charities that do fantastic work for people affected by fire. Having a fire brigade themed pub in the shadow of the monument is very apt as it comes ahead of The Great Fire of London's 350th and our own 150th anniversary next year."

Simon Emeny, Fuller's chief executive, said: "This has been a great site for Fuller's since we took it on in 1999 – but The Hydrant really brings the pub up to date."

London's best busker is Luca

SINGER Luca Fiore has been crowned Gigs Champion 2015, following a six-month search to find London's best busker.

The Hounslow vocalist, originally from Italy, beat acts from across the capital to take top honours in the Grand Final of Gigs, the UK's biggest street music competition.

Organised by the Mayor of London, Gigs originally attracted 240 entries, with 190 acts being selected to perform live at 24 busy London locations during the summer, including at the first ever National Busking Day as part of the Busk in London Festival. The final at Westfield Stratford City on Sunday, September 6 saw 18 of them, as chosen by music industry insiders and the public, compete in three categories, before the overall winner was decided by the judging panel.

Luca Fiore was initially selected as winner of the Soloists and Duos category (16-25 years), picking up a much coveted year's licence to busk on the London Underground, courtesy of Transport for London. Josh



■ **WINNER:** Luca Fiore.

Tenor from Hackney won in the Youth category (11-15 years) and gets a Roland Cube Street amp. Dat Brass from Islington won in the Groups category (up to eight members) and gets recording time in a top studio.

Other prizes were also up for grabs, including the Eurostar Prize, which was won by Alex James Ellison. He will now have the chance to travel to Paris, busking to passengers on the train and in the French capital.

Simeon Baker from Southwark is the overall winner of the Gigs Songwriting Prize. Cat Burns from Lambeth gets a bespoke package of training and coaching at the Institute of Contemporary Music.

Boris backs rail improvements

THE Mayor of London, Boris Johnson MP, has praised the formation of the West Anglia Taskforce to help champion the case for vital improvements to rail links between the capital, Cambridge and Stansted.

The West Anglia Taskforce held its first meeting at the House of Commons last Tuesday, September 8, following an announcement earlier this year as part of the Chancellor and the Mayor's long term economic plan for London.

Chaired by Saffron Walden MP Sir Alan Haselhurst, the taskforce will build on case-making already presented by Transport for London and the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium (LSCC) and submitted to Network Rail in June.

COMPETITION

Win tickets to see West End favourites in concert

WOULD you like the chance to see two of the biggest stars of the West End perform together for the first time in a one-night-only glittering concert?

Well here's your chance. *The London Weekly News* has teamed up with Tieline Productions to offers two lucky winners the chance to see Kerry Ellis and Louise Dearman in their concert at the Prince Edward Theatre on September 27.

You and a friend can join other theatre fans, as two of the most highly acclaimed West End leading ladies in recent years take to the stage for this once in a lifetime and unique evening of song, laughter and story telling.

To be in with a chance of winning, all you need to do is send an email with **LONDON WEEKLY NEWS COMP** as the subject heading to kerryandlouise@gmail.com along with your name, age and a contact telephone number. All entries must be received by September 25, 2015.

Terms and conditions

■ Only one entry per person
■ Each prize consists of two tickets for Kerry Ellis and Louise Dearman Live In Concert Together at the Prince Edward Theatre on September 27

■ There is no cash alternative to the prize stated, and the prizes are non-transferable.

■ Prize consists only of the elements expressly detailed above; no other elements or expenses such as travel, car parking, meals, beverages or spending money are included. All such expenses are the sole responsibility of the winner plus guest.

■ The promoter's decision is final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into. Unless otherwise stated the promoter is Tieline Productions.

■ The prize detailed is for that concert only and therefore is not transferable to other events.

■ Any additional tickets you may wish to purchase can be booked in advance online at www.delfontmackintosh.co.uk

■ Please ensure you arrive at the Prince Edward Theatre on September 27 by 7.15pm to ensure you are admitted in plenty of time for the 7.30pm. Anyone arriving after 7.30pm may not be admitted until the interval. Please also check your travel arrangements in advance as neither the promoter nor *The London Weekly News* can be held responsible for any delays due to travel disruption.

KERRY ELLIS & LOUISE DEARMAN

LIVE IN CONCERT....TOGETHER!

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2015 7:30PM
PRINCE EDWARD THEATRE, OLD COMPTON STREET, LONDON
A DELFONT MACKINTOSH THEATRE

DELFONTMACKINTOSH.CO.UK
0844 482 5154

Festival date

THE sixth Nour Festival – which showcases contemporary arts and culture from the Middle East and North Africa in venues across the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea – runs from October 20 until November 8.

Featuring film, music, literature, poetry, performance and visual arts, Nour reaches a diverse audience of local, national and international visitors.



■ **INSPIRATIONAL:** Dan Heighes, left, and Brydon Gerus.

Be brutally honest, is it time to fall in love with London's concrete 'horrors'?



■ **BRUTALIST:** The Hayward Gallery.

BY NICKY SWEETLAND

nicky@londonweeklynews.co.uk

BEST known for country houses, coastlines and cream teas, the National Trust is set to shock its traditional audience with a series of pop-up openings of once much-maligned concrete buildings from the 1960s – including several in London.

For 10 days from Friday, September 25, the Trust is shining a light on a number of buildings across the nation exposing the significance of Brutalism, a movement that altered the landscape of Britain's urban environment post war.

The Trust is leading a UK-wide series of exclusive tours of Brutalist architecture in London, Sheffield and Norwich.

Along with the Southbank Centre, it will offer behind-the-scenes access to the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery. Visitors will get a unique view of the original fixtures and fittings, spaces never-before seen by the public, to mark the start of a two-year refurbishment programme of the buildings. These tours will explore the Festival of Britain, Brutalism and Modernism. Visitors will be led through underground tunnels, onto stages, into ventilation rooms, and above performance spaces, examining the roles of form and function in the vision, construction and reception of these buildings.

Refurbishment

Other tour locations include Sheffield's Park Hill Estate and the University of East Anglia in Norwich.

The legacy of Brutalism is currently undergoing a critical reappraisal. Joseph Watson, London Creative Director of the National Trust said: "Like them or not, it is indisputable that these places represent a distinct moment in British architectural history. It's not so very long since a generation spoke of 'Victorian monstrosities' and systematically worked to erase that era in built form. We are now in danger of doing the same with Brutalism."

Shan MacLennan, Deputy Artistic Director at Southbank Centre, said: "As we close the doors of the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery for a two-year refurbishment project, we pause for a moment to explore their architecture and revisit the radical intentions of their makers, which are still modern, even in 2015. We are thrilled to be doing this with the National Trust, apparently unlikely partners, but as devoted to telling the whole story of the Southbank Centre festival site as we are."

PM praises charity volunteers

TWO London advertising specialists who have given deserving causes the chance to spread their message have been praised by Prime Minister David Cameron.

Dan Heighes, 42, from Teddington, and Brydon Gerus, 33, from Notting Hill, set up the ADCAN awards in 2014, a not-for-profit initiative that generates awareness for charitable causes while at the same time championing aspiring filmmakers by providing them with access to leading industry figures and or-

ganisations. The competition invites unsigned creative talent to select from one of four charity briefs. They must then create a 30-second film championing its cause in a unique and engaging way, helping them to further their causes.

Dan and Brydon are the latest recipients of a Points of Light award, which recognises outstanding individual volunteers, people who are making a change in their community.

Prime Minister David Cameron said: "The ADCAN

awards are a fantastic initiative to bring charities together with talented filmmakers and animators. Dan and Brydon have taken their own experiences of the advertising industry and found a way to give something back to the community."

Regardless of whether it's a doctor restoring local monuments in her free time, a father teaching young people life skills, or a musician giving a voice to lonely people, the Point of Light award honours shining examples of volunteering across the UK.



Accessibility journey information to suit you

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Developer in court over rogue adverts

BY LWN REPORTER

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

BASEMENT developers who put up advertisements without proper consents on two sites in Kensington and Chelsea found themselves in court last week.

The firm pleaded guilty at the City of London Magistrates' Court to breaching the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007.

The court, sitting on September 3, heard how officers from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Planning Enforcement Team had witnessed advertisements for Cranbrook Basements Limited at 6, Earl's Court Gardens SW5 and 26, Scarsdale Villas W8, both situated within conservation areas.

The council has been cracking down on developers who advertise without consent in conservation areas since May 2014.

Cranbrook Basements displayed 28 square metres of advertisements along the front of 6, Earls Court Gardens and 23

square metres of advertisements along the front of 26, Scarsdale Villas. The company did not have permission for advertisements of this size and type and in May 2014 had previously been advised to remove all unauthorised adverts from the borough or face prosecution.

In mitigation the court heard that the company believed the prosecution should have been dealt with in November 2014 when it was prosecuted for similar offences on other properties. Furthermore, it was asserted that they had not breached the advertisement regulations since November 2014 and had amended how they advertise themselves in other residential locations.

In sentencing, District Judge Blake said that there could be no criticism of the council's decision to prosecute. The judge also acknowledged the effect adverts have on the amenity of residents and visitors to the council's conservation areas.

The company was fined £2,400 for advertising on each site (£1,200). The fine was

reduced from £3,200 due to the company pleading guilty before a trial commenced. It was also ordered to pay the council's full costs of £8,000 and a victim surcharge of £120. The company must pay the total figure of £10,520 within 28 days.

Councillor Timothy Coleridge, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, said: "If companies have any doubt about what advertising is permitted and how to go about getting advert consent we provide an excellent pre-application advice service which can help people avoid expensive mistakes. I would urge companies to seek formal advice from our planning officers rather than end up in court."

"In this case the company did not have permission to advertise in this manner and ignored previous warnings to remove the advertisements. We will not tolerate developers advertising illegally on residential streets within our borough's conservation areas. The company's actions left us with no alternative but to prosecute."



■ TV FAVOURITE: Wetherby School pupils meet SpongeBob SquarePants.

Jeans are just the job, says Bob

To mark the 20th anniversary of the charity fundraising Jeans for Genes Day, Nickelodeon TV character SpongeBob SquarePants has rewarded Wetherby School and Minors Nursery School – both in Pembridge Square, Notting Hill – for their exceptional cash-generating efforts over the last 20 years.

Brand ambassador SpongeBob SquarePants paid

an extra special visit to Wetherby and Minors Nursery schools to reward pupils and teachers for their individual excellences and continual dedication to the charity. Minors Nursery has been recognised as the largest ever donating nursery whilst Wetherby was awarded for its outstanding contribution to the charity over the last four years.

During his visit, SpongeBob joined pupils in the classroom and also had chance to enjoy a kickabout on the playground. His visit was arranged to thank pupils and staff for taking part in Jeans for Genes Day and helping the charity to provide help and support to children and families living with genetic disorders. Jeans for Genes Day has raised over £40million in the last 20 years.

Westminster City School

Open Evening

Thursday 24 September 5.00pm

Open Mornings

Saturday 26 September 10.00am

Thursday 1 October 9.30am

Friday 2 October 9.30am

Wednesday 7 October 9.30am

Thursday 8 October 9.30am

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Westminster City School

Where tradition and religious ethos merge with modern standards

Westminster City School is a boys comprehensive school for pupils aged 11-19 which provides an active learning environment for all pupils founded on a Christian ethos.

The school offers a broad curriculum, encourages independent learning and provides a rich extracurricular programme. The curriculum, which Ofsted say is outstanding, is designed to fast track the most able pupils to complete their GCSEs in Year 10 and begin A-levels in Year 11.

Exam results in recent years have been very successful with the school receiving national recognition for its pupils high achievement at GCSE. The national schools' membership organisation for improvement and collaboration (SSAT) identified the school's success using in-depth analysis of official Department for Education data on all state-funded schools in England.

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT, said:

"Westminster City School should be congratulated for their exceptional achievement. They have proved themselves to be leading the field in improving GCSE outcomes for their pupils."

The school is in the top 20% for high attainment of non-selective schools and as such has qualified for two SSAT Educational Outcome Awards. The first is for progress made by pupils between Key Stage 2 results at primary school and GCSE results at age 16. The second is for value added progress which measures the amount of academic progress each pupil makes.

Mr James Wilson Headmaster, commented:

"These awards are a testament to the commitment and hard work of the pupils, teachers and leadership team at Westminster City School, and show what can be achieved when skilled teachers have high expectations and ambition for every young person. I am proud that this school is a member of the SSAT."

A Level results have also been very pleasing with many students going on to degree courses at highly respected Russell Group universities.

Headmaster James Wilson said:

"I am delighted with these outstanding A level results. Our students have secured places at Russell Group universities including Durham, Exeter, Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester to study degree courses such as medicine, engineering, mathematics and politics."

The school's overall A level results for 2015 are as follows:

13% A*-A

44% A*-B

97% A*-E

The main building was opened in 1877 and the school was given its present name in 1890. In its long and rich history, the school has had particularly strong links with St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. The school has kept pace with modern developments with approximately £15million spent on refurbishment and new buildings providing the school with wonderful learning facilities. Continued development of the site, in partnership with neighbours Land Securities during the regeneration of the Victoria area, will allow the school to continue to provide first class facilities for all its pupils in the heart of London.

Westminster City is a member of the United Westminster Schools & Grey Coat Hospital Foundations, which together operate some of the highest performing schools in the country. The school holds its church services at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey at the end of every term, a privilege that affords our pupils the opportunity to celebrate achievement, reward endeavor and promote a sense of pride in the school. The annual awards ceremony is also held in College Gardens of the Abbey at the end of the summer term and is a fantastic evening for all the parents, pupils and staff.

Contact details

Westminster City School
55 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HJ, Tel: 020 7963 6300
www.wcsch.com



A group of Westminster City School students in school uniforms standing in front of a building, holding certificates or awards.

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Phone 020 7963 6300 for more information or visit www.wcsch.com

55 Palace Street, London, SW1E 5HJ

FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

London WEEKLY News

ISSUE 42

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Thursday, September 17th 2015

Experts say Kate's right to put her children first



■ PARENTING SKILLS: The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge with new baby Charlotte.

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

WHINGEING critics of the Duchess of Cambridge have been slapped down by modern childcare experts who say that "the invisible princess" is actually proving that mum knows best.

The Duchess has faced much moaning recently from alleged "insiders" and royalist trolls gossiping that she is so much missed on the social circuit of which she and Prince William were the outstanding stars before she had Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

Following her absence from some high-end events, including several weddings, carping critics claimed that she was wrong to be putting family life above the royal star-walk, with some fans even calling on the duchess to get her infant children more out into the spotlight so that they could grow accustomed early to the lifelong glare of attention ahead of them.

But although Catherine is to start a reduced return to royal duties this week with a visit to the children's Anna Freud Centre on Thursday [September 17th] and is said to be making an appearance at the Rugby World Cup in Twickenham, child experts say she is absolutely right in taking a gradual approach to getting back to work – for her children's sake.

Aside from the "whose life is it anyway?" element which many Kate-commentators appear to entirely overlook, child psychologists say that the Duchess is giving her children the very best start in life by giving them most of her time.

Scientific studies have found a connection between early tender social experiences and the volume of the amygdala in the brain, which helps regulate the pro-

TURN TO PAGE 2



■ THAT'S MY BOY: The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge with son George.

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THE paper serving **ROYAL** London

ROYAL LONDON

Experts endorse Kate's parenting instincts

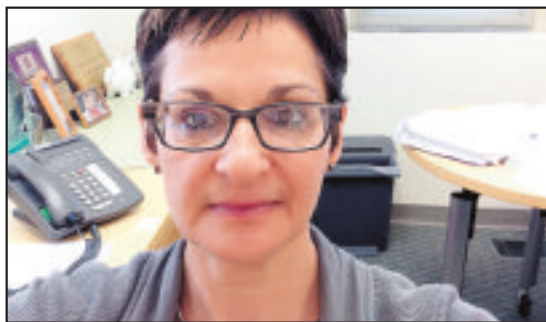
Tiny royals will prosper from early nurturing

FROM PAGE 1

cessing and memory of emotional reactions. The studies also have found that children raised in a nurturing environment typically do better in school, can cope better with stress and are more emotionally developed than their non-nurtured peers.

Brain images have also revealed that the regular and frequent demonstration of a mother's love physically affects the volume of her child's hippocampus, with children of nurturing mothers having hippocampal volumes 10 percent larger than children whose mothers were not as nurturing. Research has suggested a link between a larger hippocampus and better memory.

"We can say with confidence that the psychosocial environment has a material impact on



■ POSITIVE PARENTING: Psychiatrist Dr Joan Luby.

the way the human brain develops," said Dr Joan Luby, a psychiatrist at the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis.

"It puts a very strong wind behind the sail of the idea that early nurturing of children positively

affects their development. It's clear that a caregiver's nurturing is not only good for the development of the child, but it actually physically changes the brain."

Social scientists also point out that not only is mothers' frequent engagement with their children

correlated with early literacy skills, it also helps to prevent against depression in later life.

Child depression is one of the mental health concerns of the Anna Freud Centre in Finchley Road where the Duchess of Cambridge is visiting this week. The Duchess is doing much to champion the needs of various child health charities and her visit will draw much-needed greater awareness of the increasing problem of mental health among the young.

"One in ten young people in the UK have a diagnosable mental health problem. It is the single biggest barrier to them making friends, doing well at school and becoming healthy, happy adults," says the centre.

"Some of these children will receive the support they need to overcome their difficulties but many will not. Mental health remains one of the most misunderstood and underfunded areas of health.

"This failure to recognise and treat mental health problems at an early age is a tragedy. Not just for the children and young people affected but for all of us. It is a problem we must solve if we are to have a positive impact on the well-being and happiness of the next generation.

"At The

Anna Freud Centre, our focus is entirely on reducing the burden of mental health difficulties carried by children and young people. We propose a radical change in the way services are offered – putting the child and their families at the centre of their own care and focusing on their needs and strengths.

"We bring understanding from neuroscience and social science research to pioneer new ways of working. Ways that help children, young people and families to find their own solutions to their difficulties.

"We offer these treatments interventions wherever families may be – at home, in hostels, schools, prisons and local communities, as well as in the clinic. And what we learn we share. By training professionals and students from across the world we have an impact on

the lives of children, young people and families far beyond the reach of our services."

To support the Anna Freud Centre go to the website www.annafreud.org

■ **EARLY YEARS: Scientific studies have found a connection between early tender social experiences and the volume of the amygdala in the brain, which helps regulate the processing and memory of emotional reactions. The studies also have found that children raised in a nurturing environment typically do better in school, can cope better with stress and are more emotionally developed than their non-nurtured peers.**



WHERE TO SEE A ROYAL THIS WEEK

Earl will join service for Battle of Britain heroes

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website www.royal.gov.uk but here's the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

September 15th

■ The Earl of Wessex, as Honorary Air Commodore, Royal Air Force Waddington, will attend a Service to Commemorate the Seventy Fifth Anniversary of the Battle of Britain at St Paul's Cathedral.

■ Princess Alexandra, as Patron, will visit Queen Mother's Clothing Guild at St James's Palace.

September 17th

■ The Countess of Wessex, as Patron, the National Autistic Society, will attend the 'Swanell' Dinner at St James's Palace.



■ REMEMBER THE FEW: St Paul's Cathedral will pay tribute.

■ The Princess Royal, as President, Edith Cavell Centenary Appeal, will attend a dinner at the Globe Theatre, New Globe Walk SE1.

September 22nd

■ The Princess Royal, as Patron, the NZ-UK Link Foundation, will attend a Reception at St Mary Axe EC3.

■ The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee, will attend two receptions for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St James's Palace.

■ The Princess Royal, as President, RedR UK, will attend a dinner at the Wax Chandlers' Hall, Gresham Street EC2.



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RUCKING RUGBY EXTRAVAGANZA

Your Guide to the 2015 Rugby World Cup

The 8th Webb Ellis trophy is coming home to English soil this Autumn as rugby fever grips the nation between 18th September and 31st October 2015.

Over six years ago on the 28th July 2009, just after the British & Irish Lions tasted heartbreak defeat in South Africa, smiles once again graced the faces of English rugby fans as England was awarded the Rugby World Cup 2015.

After facing strong competition

from rival bids from Italy, South Africa and Japan, Rugby World Cup Ltd recommended England to the International Rugby Board (now known as World Rugby) with the final to be held at the famous Twickenham Stadium.

After England were appointed tournament hosts, the proposed stadia was revealed, with only four out of the thirteen stadia being dedicated rugby grounds, with the remainder being association football grounds. This move proved to be a controversial decision especially in the east Midlands where Welford Road, home of the famous Leicester Tigers, was expected to be announced as one of the host venues. Instead, the Walkers Stadium, home of Barclays Premiership side Leicester City, which can be seen from Welford Road was awarded the privilege.

A decision was also made to award cities which aren't in the usual rugby

heartlands the chance to hold pool matches, including Brighton and Birmingham. A decision that has so far proved fruitful as ticket sales have soared.

Cardiff's Millennium Stadium was also awarded several matches, including knock out games, and is the only city to feature outside of the host nation England.

The qualification process for the 2015 Rugby World Cup began during the pool stages of the 2011 tournament in New Zealand, during which the top three teams from each of the four pools were awarded automatic qualification for the 2015 event. A further eight teams qualified through regional tournaments and the repêchage process.

In all, 96 national teams have been involved in the 2015 World Cup – 12 as automatic qualifiers and 84 as entrants in the qualification rounds.

The regional rounds are split into 5 worldwide geographical areas; Americas, Asia, Europe, Oceania and Africa. Some of you may be surprised at some of the countries who participated in the regional qualification rounds. From the Americas, countries included the Bahamas, Barbados, and Bermuda making it very tropical round of matches! From Asia, the likes of India, Pakistan and China joined in. In Europe, it was a Scandinavian affair with

Sweden, Finland and Norway aiming for World Cup qualification. Finally, from Africa and Oceania, Botswana, Cameroon, Zambia, Tahiti, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands all vied for those precious World Cup spots.

The development of rugby within these countries is encouraging, and means that the game of rugby is finally starting to make a world wide impression. Players from developing countries are even starting to break into the professional domestic game in Europe with the likes of Dmitri Arhip from Moldova, and Davit Zirakashvili from Georgia playing their trade with Ospreys and Clermont-Auvergne respectively in the top tier of European rugby – The Champions Cup.

This autumn is also going to be an emotional time as we bid a very fond farewell to some of the giants of the international game, with the likes of Paul O'Connell, Ma'a Nonu and Dan Carter retiring from international rugby after the World Cup. O'Connell and Nonu are finishing their careers in the south of France with big spenders Toulon, and Carter is heading to the

French capital with Racing 92. All three have been wonderful servants to their respective countries with an incredible 297 caps between them.

When all is said and done, rugby and the World Cup has the ability to bring the global community together, and this Autumn is going to be amazing. So grab your flags, scarves, and that all important pint of beer and enjoy the ride as we welcome the Rugby World Cup 2015 to England!

BACK2BASICS LONDON PRESENTS ...

JUST GARAGE

THE ALL DAY BOAT & BUS EDITION
(LONDON TOUR) **PART 2**

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2015
MILLBANK MILLENNIUM PIER
2PM - 10PM

DJ'S PLAYING ACROSS 2 FLOORS WILL BE
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PERCEPTION • ROB BLAKE
JOE OLD SKOOL • REAPER
ANDY B • LADY T
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BOAT BOARDING TIME 2PM
BOAT DEPARTS 2:30PM SHARP
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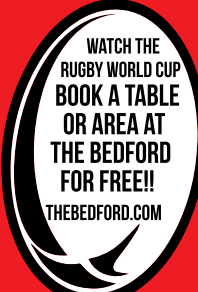
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ENTRY BY WRESTBAND ONLY

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**JUST
GARAGE**

THE ALL DAY BOAT & BUS EDITION
(LONDON TOUR) **PART 2**

SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2015
MILLBANK MILLENNIUM PIER
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DANIEL WARD B2B HERMIT
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SOUTH AFRICA	RUNNER-UP POOL D
SAMOA	QUARTER FINAL 3
JAPAN	Sunday 18 October, 13:00 Millennium Stadium, Cardiff
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USA	RUNNER-UP POOL C
POOL C	QUARTER FINAL 4
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- 3 Manchester**
City Stadium
- 4 Leicester**
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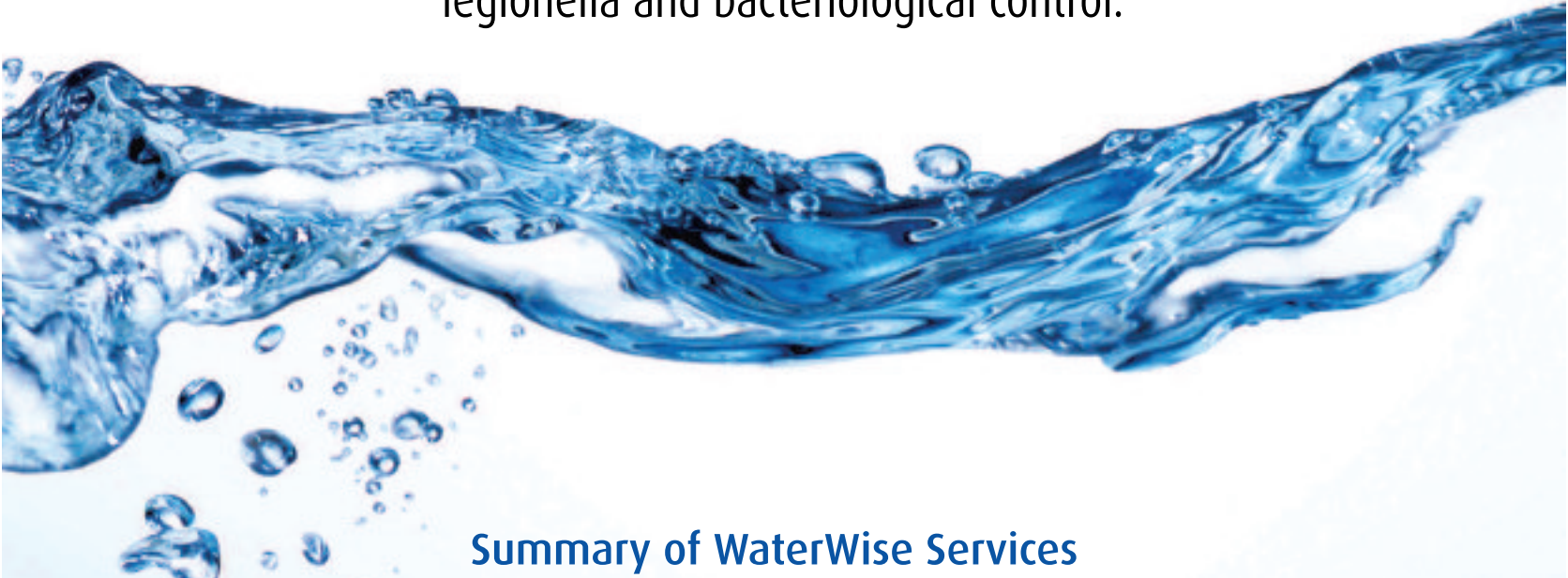
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The eccentric side of royal life illuminated

ROYAL LONDON

Kingdom of odd fellows

IF you look far enough back into its history, every family has its eccentrics and the royal family is no exception.

George II, for instance, had a highly-irrational hatred of books and anybody caught reading one in his presence would catch it in the neck as the 18th century king would fly into a rage until the offending tome was removed from his sight, writes Geoff Baker.

Elizabeth I suffered from anthropophobia, the fear of flowers – roses in particular. Clearly this must have made sitting on her throne somewhat unsettling, decorated as it was with three white roses of the House of York.

James I had a fear of getting stabbed – not such a strangeness, given the often-brutal ways of the Middle Ages – and sought to protect himself against the threat by wearing such heavily-padded clothing that his walk around Court was reduced to an awkward waddle.

And woe betide anyone who upset the frequently-irrational King John, whose fury was so fierce that he was said to gnaw at anything to hand if upset by some disobedient baron. John was also said to be in the habit of setting fire to his host's house if he did not especially enjoy a visit.

The Stuarts were no strangers to extreme behaviour. As a lover Charles II indulged himself in having more than 30 mistresses whom he also indulged to such an extent that he once took – in today's money – £2.3 million from the public purse to pay off the gambling debts of his long-time mistress Lady Castlemaine.

But stranger still was “the merry monarch” when it came to sitting down for supper. Obsessive about cleanliness, he employed a “gravy-dabber” whose sole purpose at Court was to hover about His Majesty at mealtimes, ready with a cloth to dab at the king's lips and remove any speck of food or smear of drink.

Mind you, the dabber had his work cut out. Dinner in those days began at three in the afternoon and went on for hours. At one state banquet in 1671, Charles and his doubtless-bursting guests munched through a menu that contained 145 courses.

He was of course famous for making fashionable the eating of pineapple in Britain but his less known for his habit of regularly taking “The King's Drops”, an alleged medicine made to prevent apoplexy.

Don't go asking your pharmacist for such drops today – as Charles's tincture was a gruesome brew of alcohol and powdered human skull taken from mummified corpses.

But if the offer of “brandy or



■ COURAGE: Sir Anthony Van Dyck's Queen Henrietta Maria and her Dwarf, Sir Jeffrey Hudson, main picture above.

drops, archbishop?” caused any ripples of shock at the king's table, it was little compared to the “anyone for dwarf pie?” stunt that was pulled on his father Charles I and his young French wife Queen Henrietta Maria when visiting for a banquet at the London home of their good friends the Duke and Duchess of Buckingham.

When it comes to “you did what, sire?” behaviour, few royals can match the example of this all-time standard for the eccentric dining experience when Charles and Henrietta sat down with the Buckingham for a surprise course of a seven-year-old child served up inside a pie.

Don't worry, the child was not harmed. But by any normal standards it's still very odd and the story will be told next month at Hampton Court Palace as part of a series of new lectures on the history of the monarchy.

When the game pie course

came, in a large dish placed before the queen, one can imagine the astonishment when, far from containing partridge or pheasant or even four and twenty blackbirds, the filling was an 18-inch-tall, seven-year-old child called Jeffrey Hudson – who suddenly rose through the pastry crust dressed entirely in a miniature suit of armour and dripping in venison gravy.

I am not making this up, as guests at the lecture on the bizarre but true story of Jeffrey Hudson will discover at Hampton Court Palace on October 14th.

If ever there was a good royal movie waiting to be made, it is the story of Hudson, “the Queen's dwarf”, whose tale is like something straight out of Game Of Thrones.

Born in Rutland in 1619 to normal-sized parents, Hudson's father was the keeper of the Duke of Buckingham's baiting bulls. PETA look away now. Baiting bulls were poor animals who were reared for the purpose of getting savaged to death by especially-bred bulldogs.

The manner of their slaughter says much about how far we've come. A bull was put in a pit and fastened to a metal stake by a chain that gave it a 30ft fighting radius. Pepper was then blown into its nose to make it even more hacked off and then fighting dogs were

poured into the pit to kill it – because at the time many towns had by-laws regulating the sale of meat, which stipulated that bulls' flesh should be baited before any bull was slaughtered as it was believed that baiting improved the flesh.

Anyway, into this enlightened world grew Jeffrey – a perfectly-proportioned little chap but very, very little, technically a pituitary dwarf suffering from a growth hormone deficiency – although local talk had it that Jeffrey was such a Tom Thumb because his mother had “choked on a gherkin while pregnant”.

His miniature standing made him something of a little big star and shortly after his seventh birthday he was presented to the Duchess of Buckingham, who made him part of her household and then served him a little later as pie filling for the royals.

Enchanted by the tiny chap, the queen accepted Jeffrey as a gift and moved him into her home at Denmark House, now Somerset House, to be part of her retinue of oddity which included two other dwarves, a monkey and a Welsh giant called William Evans.

Evans and Jeffrey developed a

double act which wouldn't get past the censors on *Britain's Got Talent* these days but which delighted the Court – the giant would take Jeffrey from his pocket along with slices of bread and proceed to make a sandwich.

As Jeffrey grew in age, his frame did not and he remained at only 18 inches tall. But he became a Court favourite, starring in skits and masques, appearing in portraits of the queen and known as Lord Minimus.

At the age of 10 (!) he was considered sufficiently mature to be sent to France to fetch a midwife for the then-pregnant queen. Their ship was attacked and plundered by pirates on the voyage home but somehow the queen's emissary got his important charge back to London, where he spent the next decade learning courtly manners, how to ride and, significantly, how to shoot.

Soon came the Civil War and Jeffrey was appointed Captain of Horse with Prince Rupert's cavalry, joining the Royalist army at Oxford. It is not recorded whether he did or didn't see service in the field against the Roundheads but as the Royalists' fight was not going well he was

sent to accompany the queen in fleeing to France.

And there it all went pear-shaped for Captain Jeffrey Hudson, who had become tired of being the butt of jokes and, following one such from another exiled courtier, challenged his defamer to a duel.

The amused aristocrat accepted but he arrived for the appointed combat armed only with a toy. Roaring his laughter as the referee gave the command to fire, he soon stopped as Jeffrey shot him straight through the forehead.

But duelling was illegal in France and the disgraced Jeffrey, now aged 25, was sent back to England in disgrace. En route, his ship was attacked by Barbary pirates and he was taken to Africa, where he spent the next 25 years in slavery from which he did not escape back to London until 1669. By then his queen had gone and, after suffering further imprisonment for being a Catholic, he died a pauper.

■ The Queen's Dwarf: The Life Of Jeffrey Hudson. Hampton Court Palace, October 14th, 7.0 pm. Tickets £15

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SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

From King's Road punk store to Woman's Hour...

Great Pretender who takes rock and role model seriously

by Geoff Baker

ROCK and roll was never meant to be respectable or appeal to, as Mick Jagger perfectly put it, "people who wash".

Rock and roll was not meant to be for them. Pop music, originally rock and roll's My Little Pony equivalent, was invented for them, calculatingly and commercially created by old men in ties in order to cash in on the sound, but not the spirit, of rock.

Rock and roll hated all of that, it despised the manufactured niceness of pop with the same loathing that it had of suits, lawns and any other tidy representation of Mr Mainstream.

Rock and roll was meant to shock and to scare, but there's little money to be made from scaring people who wash, so the music business arranged for rock to marry pop, weakening it down and sugaring it up to make it palatable to the masses.

But pop rock then discovered that it could make even more money if it made itself sexy, appealing to the uncertain pubescence of its impressionable teen market by selling a succession of boy bands from The Beatles to One Direction to an audience that demonstrated its uncertain grasp on maturity by screaming.

But has pop, the preferred choice of Miss and Master Mainstream, gone too far? Has the nice but deliberately naughty alternative to the surly, threatening rock and roll actually become the real threat by making itself too blatantly lascivious? And if so, outside of a pulpit where are the voices to warn against that?

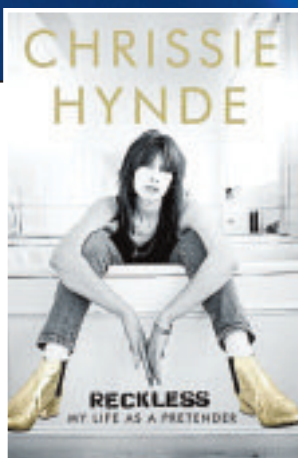
One voice, a gravelled old one from the very belly of rock and roll, spoke up last week, surreally on *Woman's Hour* of all foreign places, when the notoriously-scary Chrissie Hynde warned the washed that they had better watch out.

It was an amusingly-chippy interview, as you would expect from the founder of The Pretenders, causing much spilling of coffee and guffaws as Hynde countered Jenni Murray's probing "now we both, you and I, lived through the same sexual revolution..." with "Ha! How was it for you?"

But then the rock and roll defiance surfaced, not by Hynde trashing the studio or swearing or anything as clichéd but by challenging the norm of Mr Mainstream which has allowed the idols of young teenagers – Rhianna, Beyoncé, Lady Gaga, Miley Cyrus and Rita Ora – to appear on television in provocatively-skimpy costumes.

Many parents, especially those of young daughters, have repeatedly expressed alarm in recent years over the impact it is having on impressionable young teenagers to see their idols dressed like a stripper. There is a canyon of difference between sexy and slutty, as Dame Shirley Bassey – herself no stranger to sexiness – recently pointed out.

"They're all in competition with each other about who can wear the skimpiest outfit," complained Dame



■ SOMETHING TO SAY: Chrissie Hynde berates 'sex worker' pop divas.

fringe, made-dark eyes and tight mouth – and as a mother of two daughters she has an as-unexpected strong sense of responsibility that is hardly a hallmark of her profession.

Many other stars, especially the pop ones, appear to use their children almost as props or accessories, something extra to grab the attention of the paparazzi if the outfit from Raymond's Revue Bar isn't quite doing the trick. But such cheap and questionable stunts fall way below the standards of Chrissie Hynde.

"I always put my kids first. They always had their bedtime. They didn't see a show of mine until they were about 14," she said. "It's not cool to have a famous parent. I pulled back once I had them. I did just the least amount to get by. I think it's a real burden to be living in the shade of someone. I never talk about my kids."

"You've never seen me photographed with my children; you've never seen me walk through an airport with them. What if one of my kids wanted to be a librarian, and was very quiet and reserved? I want them to come from a colourless background like I did, and have the opportunity to invent themselves when the time comes."

Now Chrissie Hynde has re-invented herself as an author with an autobiography which is already being hailed as the best since Keith Richards released *Life*. Like Bob Geldof and unlike almost everybody else in the business, she wrote it herself, shocked at the very idea that anyone would give their own story to a ghost writer.

The book is already causing much excitement on both sides of the Atlantic and publishers Penguin Random House

are positively frothing over it:

"Few other rock stars have managed to combine her swagger, sexiness, stage presence, knack for putting words to music, gorgeous voice and just all-around kick-assedness into such a potent and alluring package. Her signature songs project a unique mixture of toughness and vulnerability that millions of men and women have related to. A kind of one-woman secret tunnel linking punk and new wave to classic guitar rock, she is one of the great luminaries in rock history."

*"Now, in her no-holds-barred memoir *Reckless*, Chrissie Hynde tells, with all the fearless candor, sharp humor and depth of feeling we've come to expect, exactly where she came from and what her crooked, winding path to stardom entailed."*

Chrissie Hynde took that path, to London from Ohio in 1973 – not to be, as she briefly was, a shop assistant at Vivienne Westwood and Malcolm McLaren's King's Road punk store, nor, as she was also, a very cynical writer on the *NME*, but to be in a band. It is entirely all that she has ever wanted.

"I was never too interested in high school. I mean, I never went to a dance, I never went out on a date, I never went steady. It became pretty awful for me. Except, of course, I could go see bands, and that was the kick."

"I used to go to Cleveland just to see any band. So I was in love a lot of the time, but mostly with guys in bands that I had never met. For me, knowing that Brian Jones was out there, and later that Iggy Pop was out there, made it kind of hard for me to get too interested in the guys that were around me. I had bigger things in mind. I wanted to be in

a band, I wanted to be in a band so bad."

The band she eventually got to be in, by forming it herself in 1978, became one of the best of the Eighties. As other post-punk bands ponced around as New Romantics and poppy divas, The Pretenders gave an edge to London in the decade with hit after hit, including *Stop Your Sobbin'*, *Kid*, *Brass In Pocket*, *Talk Of The Town*, *Don't Get Me Wrong*, *2000 Miles* and *Back On The Chain Gang*.

What made The Pretenders so distinctive and impressed so many, wasn't that it was a woman fronting a rock band, the punk scene had caused the start of that, it was woman fronting a rock band playing a guitar and being able to play it very well. She is self-effacing about that, as she told *The Guardian* last year.

"There's always been women doing this, just not that many. I don't know what the feminists have to say about it. Over the years, you'd hear, 'We weren't encouraged.'"

"Well, I don't think Jeff Beck's mother was saying, 'Jeffrey! What are you doing up in your room? Are you rehearsing up there?' No one was ever encouraged to play guitar in a band."

"But I never found it harder because I'm a woman. If anything I've been treated better. Guys will carry my guitars and stuff – who's going to say no? Guys always tune my guitars, too. If they want to tune it, go ahead, I don't care. They probably think they can do it better than me. They probably can. I always surround myself with people who are better than I am, so I've no doubt they can. That's how, having primitive skills, I got away with it."

There is clearly much more to it than that, as is revealed in her book. Certainly Madonna thinks so. The empress of pop credits Chrissie Hynde as being the one who gave her the confidence to also launch herself into such a historically male-dominated world as the rock business.

"I saw her play with The Pretenders in Central Park in 1980," Madonna recalled. "She was amazing: the only woman I had ever seen in performance where I thought, Yeah, she's got balls, she's awesome! It gave me courage, inspiration, to see a woman with that kind of confidence in a man's world."

That rock and roll, now at the grand old age of 60, is no longer a man's world is considerably due to Chrissie Hynde. She would hate to be called a pioneer of women in rock but when rock and roll marks its centenary in 2056 that is doubtless how she will get written up in the history of it all.

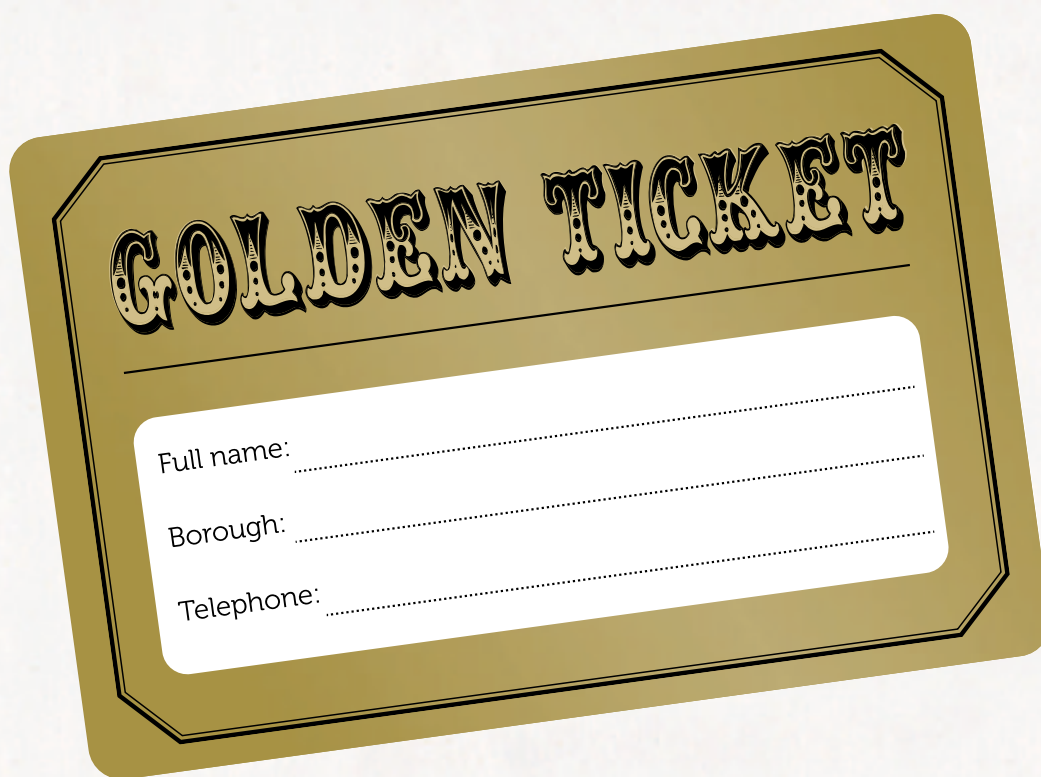
"I'm a facts person," she said way back in 1994, "I'm not into theories. And the fact is that guys can out-rock women. I've no idea why we haven't produced a Jeff Beck or a Jimi Hendrix. But we haven't."

But there has been a great Chrissie Hynde and her inspirational story deserves what it is already tipped to be, high on a lot of wish lists for this year's Christmas presents.

■ **Reckless: My Life As A Pretender** by Chrissie Hynde. Out now

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WINE & DINE

The food and
drink page for
West London

Builder's just desserts

RICHARD Burr might not have won last year's *Great British Bake Off*, but he's definitely one of the show's most memorable contestants, writes Claire Spreadbury.

Maybe it's the pencil behind the ear. Maybe it's the consistency that saw him scoop the most Star Baker accolades the programme's ever seen. Or maybe it's his delectable, down-to-earth demeanour, which never saw him flap, fluster or throw a Baked Alaska in the bin.

And while a new crew of bakers craft their showstoppers in this year's series, 39-year-old Burr has been beaver away releasing his first cookbook.

"I got to spend the whole winter making all of my favourite food," he tells me in the kitchen of his North London home, all doe-eyed and dimples.

The house, which was derelict when he bought it and lovingly restored with his own fair hands (he runs a building firm with his dad), has seen a fair bit of action of late. The entire book was shot, cover to cover, here ("the crew all but moved in"), and includes lovely images of old tools from Burr's toolbox, including his beloved grandfather's saw.

It's clear that family's really important to him. He lives with his wife Sarah, who joins in when we're chatting, nips off to M&S insisting she needs to buy us sandwiches and tells me stories about being woken up at 2am for *Bake Off* taste tests, and drunkenly devouring an entire Beef Wellington when the pair clambered in after a night out. And then there's their two adorable daughters, three-year-old Genevieve, all tousled blonde locks, who chirps away in the background, popping her head up for a spoonful of daddy's custard, and Elizabeth, six, who's at a summer camp today. There's another bundle of joy on the way too, due in December.

Baking has always filled a delicious hole in Burr's life.

"Mum baked cakes and kept us alive, but I got a Saturday job in a bakery and scrumped as many doughnuts as I could. That's where my love of baking really comes from," he says, as he lays out the ingredients to make the millefeuille recipe from his book, *BIY: Bake It Yourself*. "And now I cook with the kids. I'm an early bird, so I'll often be kicking around with the girls in the morning, and if it's a choice between cooking in the kitchen or watching Nickelodeon, I'd rather have them in here with me."

As we get to work on one of Burr's favourite sweet treats, he's a pleasure to share a kitchen with, giving me instructions, tips and encouragement as I do my very best not to split the creme patissiere.

After the success of *Bake Off* and landing a book deal, you'd be forgiven for thinking he might decide to knock the hard graft of building on the head. But building is a big part of Burr's life – evident as he draws out his steel tape measure to size up the slices of cooked puff pastry.

"The business went huge after *Bake Off*," he reveals, whipping out some piping bags and wandering about the hub of his home, sporting a T-shirt, jeans and bright green socks. "I could have just used it to expand, but I wanted to have some fun with food, too. I try not to say 'no' to anything."

Indeed, he has a degree in biodiversity and conservation – which he took on while doing *Bake Off* and running a building firm, and he somehow managed to get a first.

Burr's also a keen fisherman. And now, he's an author, too.

"My favourite recipes from the book include the blackberry and elderflower pavlovas. My wife is actually pathologically addicted to them. The millefeuilles are great, and there's a brilliant mincemeat muffin in there, that doesn't look much, but once you have it, you'll never eat mince pies again."

And with that, he shows me how to pipe the custard and stack the millefeuille, we throw a load of icing sugar over the top, skip lunch and go straight to dessert – delicious!



■ SPOT ON: Richard Burr making millefeuille in his home.

Fancy baking some of Richard Burr's creations for yourself? Give this tasty treat a whirl...

PUFF PASTRY FOR MILLEFEUILLE AND WELLINGTON RECIPES

225g strong white bread flour, plus more to dust
1/2tsp table salt; 225g unsalted butter, chilled; 1tsp lemon juice

This is very important (and a bit like a choose-your-own-adventure): If you don't have a day to prepare, just buy a pack of all-butter puff pastry from the shops and move straight to the millefeuille or wellington recipe. If you do have a day to prepare, to make the puff pastry, first mix the flour and salt in a large bowl, then chop 25g of the butter and rub into the flour with your fingers.

Add the lemon juice and 140ml of cold water and mix with a knife until the mixture is brought together enough to handle. Tip out on to a floured work surface and knead until smooth and elastic (probably five to 10 minutes). Allow the dough to rest for five minutes.

Roll out on a floured surface to a rectangle of 51 x 17cm (or thereabouts). You need quite a bit of worktop space for this. Roll out the remaining 200g butter between sheets of cling film to a large rectangle of 33 x 15cm. You'll need to peel off and reapply the cling film regularly to stop it ripping.

Working quickly now, peel the top layer of cling film off the butter and flip the butter onto the rolled-out dough, covering two-thirds of the length of the dough and also leaving a clear rim around all the edges. Fold the unbuttered dough on to half of the butter and press the edges to seal the butter in. Fold this layer over to cover the remaining butter and press down the edges all round to form a 17cm square: two layers of butter separated by three layers of dough. Wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Take out of the fridge and roll back out to about 51 x

17cm. Fold up into thirds as before, to make a square. Turn the square through 90 degrees and roll out to 51 x 17cm again, then fold up as before. Wrap in cling film and chill for another 30 minutes.

Repeat the last step, so the pastry has been folded a total of five times. Chill for another 30 minutes.

FIG AND ANISE MILLEFEUILLE (Makes 10)

For the pastry:
2/3 quantity puff pastry dough (or you can cheat and buy it ready-made); plain flour, to dust; icing sugar, to dust

For the custard:
170ml whole milk; 3 star anise; 2 egg yolks; 35g caster sugar; 1 1/2tbsp cornflour; 100ml double cream

For the figs in syrup:
4 baby figs; finely grated zest and juice of 1 orange
50g light brown muscovado sugar; 1 cinnamon stick

Follow the instructions to make the pastry (if you're not using shop-bought), rolling it out to about 45 x 15cm each time and chilling in the fridge.

Now for the custard. Pour the milk into a saucepan with the star anise and set over a medium heat. Bring to a

simmer, then take off the heat and leave to infuse for 10 minutes.

Put the egg yolks in a heatproof bowl and whisk with the caster sugar and cornflour, using a hand or electric whisk. Once the milk has infused, fish out the star anise and pour the milk into the egg mixture, whisking as you do so. Pour back into the saucepan and set over a low heat.

Stir constantly, using a silicone spatula, until the custard thickens up, then quickly scrape into a clean bowl. Lay cling film on the surface of the custard (to stop a skin forming) and put in the fridge to cool.

While the pastry is chilling in the fridge, you can poach the figs. Cut each fig into sixths, put in a saucepan with the orange zest and juice, sugar and cinnamon stick and set over a low heat.

Once simmering, cook for eight to 10 minutes, occasionally turning the figs. Fish the figs out of the saucepan and lay on a plate. Put in the fridge to cool.

Preheat the oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7. Line a baking tray with baking parchment and take the pastry out of the fridge. Roll it out on a floured surface to a neat rectangle 30 x 25cm and lay this on the baking tray. Lay another sheet of baking parchment on top of this and weigh it down with another baking tray to stop the pastry from puffing up too far. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes.

Take the tray off the top of the pastry and return to the oven for another 10-12 minutes until golden brown and cooked through. Remove from the oven, take the pastry off the tray and off the baking parchment. Set on a wire rack to cool down.

Returning to the custard, whip the cream with an electric whisk until it forms soft peaks. Take the now-cooled custard out of the fridge and fold in the whipped cream, a couple of tablespoons at a time. Load into a piping bag and snip the end to make an opening about 5mm in diameter. Once the pastry is completely cooled, put it on a chopping board and carefully cut into three rectangles of 25 x 10cm. Cut each of these into 10 pieces, each 10 x 2.5cm, to give 30 neat fingers of puff pastry. Some of the outside ones may be a bit ragged, but those are generally the baker's treats!

Assemble each pastry: Pipe 14 small blobs (two rows of seven) of custard on to the bottom layer of pastry. Lay the next layer on top and pipe on another 14 blobs of custard. Take the figs out of the fridge and cut each segment in half (giving you 48 segments). Lay segments of fig on top of the custard, all facing in the same direction. You might have a few fig pieces left over, depending on size.

Lay a third layer of pastry on top and dust with a little icing sugar.

Repeat to assemble all the pastries.



MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Duck eggs with devilled lamb kidneys

Serves four

THIS version of the old Victorian breakfast dish makes for a delicious and different breakfast, brunch or even dinner party starter. You can replace the kidneys with chicken livers or hearts, or indeed a combination of the two, if you wish.

For the sauce

A good knob of butter
1 small shallot, peeled, halved and finely chopped

1tsp coarsely ground black pepper

A good pinch of cayenne pepper

1tbsp red wine vinegar

1tsp flour

1/2tsp Dijon mustard

150ml beef stock (half a good cube dissolved in 150ml water will do)

Salt to taste

4 lamb kidneys, halved, de-veined and each half cut into three

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

50g butter

4 duck eggs

Duck egg with devilled lamb kidneys (Jason Lowe)

First make the sauce. Heat the butter in a pan and gently cook the shallot, pepper and cayenne pepper for 30 seconds, then add the vinegar and reduce completely. Stir in the flour and mustard and gradually whisk in the stock, then simmer gently for 5-6 minutes until it's nicely thickened. Season, cover and remove from the heat.

Heat a little butter in a frying pan and season and quickly cook the kidneys on a high heat for 30 seconds, giving them a nice colour, then drain on some kitchen paper. Put the skillets on the edge of the Aga ring or on a diffuser on a low heat. Add a little butter to each one then crack in the eggs, season lightly and gently cook them until just set. Meanwhile reheat the kidneys in the sauce, spoon on to the eggs and serve immediately.



■ TUCK IN: Duck eggs with devilled lamb kidneys, to a recipe by Mark Hix.



■ BUILDING A REPUTATION: Richard Burr.

Talk Of The Town

Music | Theatre | Reviews

Blood Brothers

New Wimbledon Theatre ***

THE last time I watched the classic Willy Russell musical *Blood Brothers* was when I was just 16 and I can safely say I'm quite a lot longer in the tooth now.

Unfortunately, so are the majority of the cast in this new offering of the Bill Kenwright formulae, which has been travelling the country on and off for the past 20 years.

That's not to say they are bad. In fact, Maureen Nolan as Mrs Johnston is still a fine figure of a woman, but I can't help but feel that the impact of the story would be even more heartfelt if the actors were just a bit less seasoned.

This is Nolan's tenth year playing the role which three of her sisters before her had fulfilled, earning them an entry into the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

One of the most iconic leading ladies ever to have been written, Mrs Johnston is an unlucky woman who gives up one of her twin babies in the hope he will have a better life and she will be able to keep the wolf from the door.

With a story hinged on superstitions, it ends with tragic consequences for both of the brothers.

Joel Benedict as Eddie, the brother who is given away, is perfect as the shy public school boy wishing for some excitement to infiltrate his bland existence with his overbearing mother.

His blood brother Mickey, played by Sean Jones, is truly superb, going from the cheeky dirty little street urchin to morose depressant. His portrayal of the jobless drug dependant was particularly powerful and gave act two a real depth beyond just the regular story.

There are also great performances from Danielle Corliss as Linda, the object of both



■ **TOUCHING:** *Blood Brothers'* leading lady, Maureen Nolan, is Mrs Johnston, with Marti Pellow the narrator.

Age cannot diminish a pure classic

speak in his native Scottish accent.

With a classic score, a wonderful story and some excellent performances, this production is well worth a visit. I only wish they had given some younger actors a chance to shine.

■ *Blood Brothers* opened in London's West End at the Lyric Theatre in 1983 to critical acclaim.

The musical written by Willy Russell won the Olivier Award for Best New Musical and Best Actress in its first year. After a successful first run, it did not appear for five years before being revived at the Albery Theatre (now the Noel Coward Theatre) in 1988, where it stayed for three years. It was then transferred to the Phoenix Theatre in 1991. Over two and a half decades, it has accumulated a host of awards and has become one of the longest standing musicals on the West End.



By **NICKY SWEETLAND**
LWN Theatre Critic

boys' affections, and from the narrator, who on this production was played by Marti Pellow.

Quite masterful on the stage, Pellow does very well as the conscience of the piece, although I would have preferred for him to

Dusty confined to the bin

Dusty *

WHEN it was first announced they were doing a musical featuring the music of 60s icon Dusty Springfield, I have to say I was quite excited.

With so many memorable hit songs, even the jukebox format, which is not my favourite type of musical, couldn't possibly be that bad. How wrong can one person be? The show playing at the Charing Cross Theatre is one of the worst things I've ever watched and without trying to sound cruel, I've struggled to find anything positive to say about it.

The one-star rating is given because I felt so sorry for the performers who have been given a job to do with appalling direction, a terrible script and ill conceived and thoroughly ham-fisted staging.

Billed as a show which mixes live action with state-of-the-art technology, the story is told through the eyes of fictional childhood friend Nancy Jones,

and follows Dusty's life from childhood up until her recording in Memphis. In a confused array of scenes set in recording studio and concert venues, we are given a superficial view of the singer's career without ever exploring the real Dusty. The more sensitive areas of her life were so badly covered that I put my head in my hands on more than one occasion and actually had to stifle a giggle of embarrassment at how corny and stiff some of the dialogue was.

Set changes were clunky, with loud knocks and bangs during quiet moments, and the actor-musicians spent so much time running up and down the stairs that I started to think it was being used as added percussion.

Even the music, which in some parts was performed quite well, was totally ruined by poor sound quality and the interference of the archive video playing behind the actors. The 3D hologram of the legend herself was totally

underwhelming, and most of the time the sync between the music and the movement on the screen was off kilter. The changing of the set to incorporate the hologram was noisy and slow and I really wished they'd just allowed poor Alison Arnopp to get on and play the role, rather than constantly interrupting her performance.

The worst distractions of all were the abhorrent wigs. More *Fraggle Rock* than sixties bouffant, at more than one point they looked like they might get up and run off of their own volition.

The show has been in previews since May, and you have got to ask where the time has been spent.

This was a show my boss really wanted to see, but my advice to him would be firstly don't and secondly if you really want to, you had better hurry, as I don't expect it will be a long run.

Nicky Sweetland

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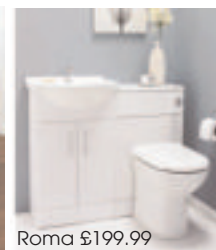
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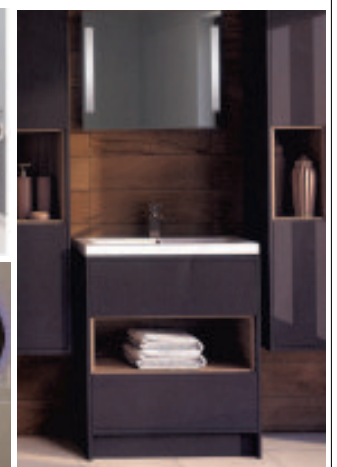
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Talk Of The Town

london Listings

Kensington Olympia Festival of Music and the Arts

The Kensington Olympia Festival of Music and the Arts – KOFMA – is being held in the beautiful parish church of St Matthew, Kensington Olympia, on the corner of Sinclair, Masbro and Fielding Roads until Sunday, September 20. For detailed information about all the events, including ticket prices - which are all bookable online – go to www.kofma.co.uk. Or just turn up on the day. Tickets for the gala dinner are also available through Laura Lamph on kofma2015@gmail.com or 07779 108108.

Importance of Being Earnest at the Vaudeville Theatre

To November 7
David Suchet stars as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's much loved masterpiece. Directed by Adrian Noble, Wilde's superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity can still make you laugh out loud.
www.importanceofearnest.com

Exhibition of work by artist Irwin Crosthwait at Gray MCA

September 17 to 22
Unseen and rediscovered works by the former Canadian war artist, fashion illustrator and modern painter Irwin 'Bud' Crosthwait (1914 – 1981), will go on sale in an unprecedented selling exhibition by Gray MCA in London this September. The exhibition will present the most extensive selection of works by Crosthwait in 45 years, from across Europe and North America, including many works that have never before been on public view. The exhibition will feature a total of more than 60 original works ranging in price from £350-£10,000. Location: Gallery 8, 8 Duke Street St James's London SW1Y 6BN. Opening hours: Thursday 17 September – 9.30am - 8.00pm; Friday 18 September, Saturday 19 September, Sunday 20 September, Monday 21 September, Tuesday 22 September – 9.30am - 6.30pm

Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium

To October 10th
The iconic music of Frank Sinatra is brought to life at one of the capital's most iconic venues in Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium. This multi-media concert, which has the support and endorsement of the singer's family, marks the centenary of Sinatra's birth and features his greatest hits including Fly Me To The Moon, New York, New York and My Way.

London Design Festival

September 19 to 27
The London Design Festival was conceived by Sir John Sorrell and Ben Evans. Building on London's existing design activity, their concept

was to create an annual event that would promote the city's creativity, drawing in the country's greatest thinkers, practitioners, retailers and educators to a deliver an unmissable celebration of design. First staged in 2003, the London Design Festival is one of the world's most important annual design events. The Festival programme is made up of over 400 events and exhibitions staged by hundreds of partner organisations across the design spectrum and from around the world. A major feature of the London Design Festival each year is the ambitious programme of installations that organisers call their Landmark Projects.

Hamlet at the Barbican Theatre

To October 31
Directed by Lyndsey Turner and starring Benedict Cumberbatch. Benedict Cumberbatch takes on the title role in Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, the Barbican presents an exclusive twelve-week run of this compelling new production in summer 2015.

Pearly Kings and Queens Harvest Festival

September 27
Celebrate the harvest with the Pearly Kings and Queens, who will be wearing their traditional pearl-button suits as they parade from Guildhall to St Mary-le-Bow church. The Pearly Kings and Queens of London are a charming and unforgettable sight. At this festival, which celebrates the bounty of the autumn harvest, they will be staging traditional entertainment at Guildhall before parading to St Mary-le-Bow church for a service of thanksgiving. You can expect marching bands, donkeys and a host of colourful characters at this traditional event, which raises money for the Whitechapel Mission.

West London Philatelic Society

September
West London Philatelic Society is ten years old this month. Meetings start at 8pm and are held at The Church Rooms, behind Acton Hill Church, Woodlands Avenue, Acton, London W3 9BU. In general, meetings are on the first Tuesdays of each month, from September to July, unless noted otherwise. They are a small, friendly society. New members welcome. For more details contact Honorary Secretary Christopher E Oliver on Tel: 020 8940 9833 or e-mail: olivers.of_ham@virgin.net. Web: sites.google.com/site/westlondonphilatelicsociety

Buckingham Palace summer opening

To September 27th
Visit Buckingham Palace, the official London residence of the Queen, this summer. Buckingham Palace is one of the world's few remaining working royal palaces - don't miss the chance to see it.



■ TITILLATING AND LUSTFUL: The stories revealed by F*cking Men.

Portrayal of gay culture appeals to wide audience

F*cking Men review ****

I FINALLY managed to get to see the highly acclaimed Joe DiPietro's *F*cking Men* at the King's Head Theatre after it was extended due to popular demand, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

On its previous run at the theatre it became the longest running show after completing nine months of performances and after watching the one-act play it is obvious why it has such high appeal.

The play portrays the erotic encounters of ten men and their

interconnected search for sexual satisfaction.

In a very honest look at male promiscuity, we join the characters during their individual journeys in a titillating and lustful collection of stories.

Some of the appeal of this play is undeniably the thought of ten, attractive guys getting their bits out. Once you have got past this however, the play is a wonderfully touching snapshot into the world of male relationships.

The cast of mostly young

male actors are superb, and all portray their roles with honesty and verve.

There is no lead within the plot, with the cast instead all playing a major role in the play, which very much feels like a shared experience.

An interesting and honest portrayal, this is a great piece of theatre and appeals to a wide ranging audience despite the obvious focus on the gay subculture.

■ F*cking Men runs at the King's Head Theatre until September 26

Sordid revelations become compelling

Hatched and Dispatched ****

BILLED as a "mucky romp through the morals, memories and music of the 1950s", Gemma Page and Michael Kirk's play *Hatched and Dispatched* fulfilled this premise from the first moment and set the tone for a wonderfully down and dirty look at a family get together, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

Set in the aftermath of a joint funeral and christening, we join a seemingly ordinary family which possesses the many intricate relationship issues many of us can relate to.

We are first greeted by the sweet and hapless couple Madeleine and Oliver, played by Vicky Binns and Matthew Fraser Holland, who are desperate to provide the matriarchal Dorothy Mavis with another grandchild and get set to practise the art of copulation on the living room floor before the rest of the family get back from the church.

They are soon joined by the

rest of the brood, lead by Dorothy Mavis, played by the wonderful Wendi Peters, who begins to conduct the day's proceedings in her very own forceful and frightfully gauche manner. With a look that could turn you to stone, Peters is the absolute epitome of the nightmare mother in law, and doesn't even attempt to hide her contempt for her children's spouses as she peers at her little darlings through her rose tinted spectacles. None more so than her vile, loose women-loving son Kenneth, James Wrighton, whose dark portrayal and the relationship with his wife Corinne, played by the effervescent Danielle Flett, I found really quite chilling.

The play starts out as an old fashioned farce with some hilarious moments and although the undertones are obvious, much of the action is fast and funny. The jovial tone is somewhat forgotten in act two however, where I did feel the dialogue lost pace

and made my attention somewhat wane as we started to re-alise all but a few of the characters are really quite horrible. None more so than Edward, played by Kevin McGowan, whose long term affair with grieving widow and sister in law Irene, played with great depth by Wendy Morgan, started the change of plot from one of fun to one of discomfort.

Alongside his flirtations with daughter in law Corinne, it made for some quite uncomfortable viewing.

Much of the light relief was provided by Diana Vickers as the airhead good time girl Susan, and along with the excellent Binns and the adorable Fraser Holland, kept the play from descending too far into a pit of despair.

With some larger than life characters and some rather sordid hidden secrets, the resulting production is an amusing and triumphant piece of immersive theatre.

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Talk Of The Town

WORLD champion ballroom dancer and *Strictly* Come Dancing favourite Joanne Clifton has joined presenter Zoe Ball on the show's daily BBC2 sister show *It Takes Two* this year. But how has the hotshot hooper managed to trade in her heels for a new career in TV presenting?

Well, the dazzling dancer has taken lessons from one of the country's top TV presenting experts, Kathryn Wolfe at Pukka Presenting. Wolfe runs bespoke classes for anyone wanting to take the first step into the world of TV presenting. With over 20 years of experience as a director for both the BBC and ITV, Wolfe offers a unique programme of training and has helped to steer the *Strictly* star to her first on-screen anchor role.

I spoke to Kathryn about how she came to meet Joanne Clifton, and the opportunity her classes have afforded the dancer.

"Joanne Clifton came to the Actors Centre last summer to take part in my two-day presenting course. She'd already reached world class standard with her ballroom dancing and was looking to explore TV presenting, acting and singing as another career path but being a naturally cheeky performer she took to presenting like a duck to water."

Kathryn offers courses which teach the basics of reading auto cue, talking to camera convincingly; and being the guest expert as well as giving you the skills which will enable you to fulfil interviews confidently and write and memorise scripts.

Joanne started dancing ballroom and Latin as a child in her home town of Waltham and was taught by her parents who were former world number ones Keith and Judy Clifton. She competed nationally and internationally as a child, initially partnering her brother Kevin, who is also a firm favourite with *Strictly* fans.

Joanne then took part in her first series of *Strictly* last year along with her brother, who has recently wed his dance partner Karen.

Joanne partnered Radio 1 DJ Scott Mills and after some very memorable dances, they were eliminated in week six on the Halloween show.

Trainer Kathryn tells me: "During the last series, producers gave Joanne some opportunities to do some presenting and realised she was actually going to be very good, so this year she is taking part in



■ **SCREEN GEMS:** Joanne Clifton, left has been mentored for TV presenting by Kathryn Wolfe.

TV debut for Strictly star



By **NICKY SWEETLAND**
LWN Theatre Critic

the show and presenting *It Takes Two*."

After the initial two days of basic training Joanne wanted to maintain her high career standards so undertook some one to one private coaching sessions to ensure she is the best

she can be on screen. The training is ongoing, with the pair meeting for lessons regularly. When I told Joanne the new role sounded amazing she tweeted: "I'm mad excited. Thank you, and what an opportunity to work with the legend Zoe Ball."

Kathryn at Pukka Presenting also offers specialised genres of shopping channel presenting and children's presenting and has written two leading books on TV presenting, *The TV Presenter's Career Handbook*, published by Focal Press 2015, and *So You Want to be a TV Presenter?* published by Nick Hern Books, 2010. If you would like more information on how to become a TV presenter have a look at the website pukkapresenting.co.uk

strong Italian connections. Their artistic director and star of *Puss in Boots*, Patrick Lynch, said: "We're a small company and we play small to mid spaces like the Lyric. We've got a long history at the Lyric. In fact I've been going there since the late nineties."

The company pride themselves on their trademark features which are a singular visual flair, an inventive use of props – beautifully designed and hand-made 'theatre toys' – and an interactive and genuine approach to play, no matter the age of our

audience. The original Italian story of *Puss in Boots* by Giovanni Francesco Straparola follows a clever cat who with the gift of persuasion, ends with titles and riches. Lynch said: "It's an intimate story telling experience with a lot of innovative techniques all to tell the original story of *Puss in Boots* because lots of people don't know it."

Puss in Boots plays a one-off performance in the Studio at the Lyric on September 19.

For more details visit the theatre's website lyric.co.uk

Elf: Santa's little helper

FOLLOWING overwhelming pressure, the producers of this year's must-see Christmas show, *Elf*, have announced they are to release a limited number of tickets for the greatly reduced price of £30.

The show hit the headlines a few weeks ago when ticket prices beat West End records, with the top seats costing a whopping £240 – which put them way out of reach of the average family.

Although the box office was busy with sales due to the added publicity, the unpredicted move has been welcomed by theatre goers who questioned the motives of the producers of the show, which is likely to be an extremely popular addition to the West End for its limited run.

The production is based on the 2003 film of the same name which starred Will Ferrell as the child who is adopted by Santa's helpers, only to return to the human world and struggle to fit. The heart warming and hilarious comedy was a big hit on Broadway and enjoyed a limited but very successful run at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth last year.

The cast will be led by ITV's *Superstar* winner Ben Forster as Buddy the Elf, alongside former *Girls Aloud* star Kimberley Walsh, who will play the role of Jovie. The show will

open with a glittering charity gala performance on November 5, with proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Society, and will then run throughout the Christmas period.

Elf will play at the newly refurbished Dominion Theatre from November 5 to January 2. For more details visit their website at this address: elfthemusical.co.uk



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■ **LYRIC** Hammersmith kicked off its autumn children's season last week.

First to grace the venue, which is well known for nurturing the importance of theatre for the young, was a re-telling of *Pinocchio* the classic tale through puppetry, illusion and specially composed music.

This will be followed this weekend by *Puss in Boots*, preformed by the highly acclaimed Lyngo theatre company, who are a UK-based children's theatre company with

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Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(GOLDHAWK ROAD II)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate development works in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would suspend a section of bus lane in Goldhawk Road.
- Whilst works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the westbound bus lane in Goldhawk Road between Wingate Road and Paddenswick Road will be suspended.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 will not be required.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the Tuesday 6th October 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 6th October 2015 and last until 4th December 2015. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 10th day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

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Meetings

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA CAB SERVICE AGM

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(SHEPHERD'S BUSH ROAD II)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate scaffolding works in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would suspend certain waiting and loading restrictions in the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the waiting and loading restrictions on the east side of Shepherds Bush Road outside Granville Mansions will be suspended from Monday to Saturday between the hours of 10am and 4pm to allow loading and unloading in connection with the scaffolding works at Granville Mansions, Shepherd's Bush Road only.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on Monday, 5th October 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence in 3 phases between Monday, 5th October 2015 and 07th March 2016. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 1st day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Hammersmith and Fulham (Restricted Zone) (No. 2) Order 2015

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading) (Amendment No. 55) Order 2015

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone A) (Amendment No. 30) Order 2015

The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone B/C/CC) (Amendment No. 09) Order 2015

- NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham on 04th November 2014 made the above Orders under sections 6, 32, 35, 45, 46, 49 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Orders will come into force on 02nd October 2015.
- The general nature and effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Restricted Zone)(No. 2) Order 2015, The Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading) (Amendment No. 00) Order 2015 and the Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone A) (Amendment No. 30) Order 2015 will be to make permanent, restrictions introduced into Chancellors Road as an experiment:
 - a new a Restricted Parking Zone which operate 'At any time';
 - CPZ "A" shared use bays operating within the Restricted Parking Zone between Monday to Saturday, 9am to 6.30pm with a 4 hour maximum stay for 'Pay n Display' parking;
 - A Loading Bay within the Restricted Parking Zone operating 'At any time' with a maximum stay period of 40 minutes and No Return within 1 hour.
- The general nature and effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone B/C/CC) (Amendment No. 09) Order 2015 will be to make permanent, restrictions introduced into Controlled Parking Zone C, as an experiment, which introduced a new 4 hour maximum stay period for 'Pay n Display' parking in Poplar Grove and Melrose Gardens.
- A copy of the Orders and of documents giving more detailed particulars of the Orders can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive from the date on which this notice is published until the order ceases to have effect, at the offices of: Transportation Policy Group, Transport and Technical Services Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU
- Any person desiring to question the validity of the Orders or any of the provisions therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 or that any of the relevant requirements thereof or of any regulations made thereunder, may, within 6 weeks of the Orders being made, make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated this 10th day of September 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

The Quadrangle 49 Atlatana Street SW6 2015/03813/FUL
Alterations to entrance facing Atlatana Street to include demolition of existing hip to gable feature; erection of obscured glass screens around the flat roof and installation of planters at second floor level to flat no. 32, in connection with its use as a terrace; alterations to fenestration at second floor level and alterations to existing signage. (Amended description).

9 Coulter Road W6 2015/04203/TPO
Felling of the Willow Tree in the rear garden, subject to Tree Preservation Order TPO395/07/15.

26A Bradmore Park Road W6 2015/03277/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; formation of a new courtyard to the rear of bedroom 2 at ground floor level; change of use of the ground and basement floors from an office use (Class B1) into a two bedroom self-contained flat (Class C3) (Amended description).

4 Hugon Road SW6 2015/04133/FUL
Erection of a rear extension extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofslope; installation of a new rooflight over the main flat roof at roof level; installation of a new dormer window to replace the existing window in the rear roofslope; replacement of existing windows with new windows at first floor level, to the side and rear elevation; erection of a single storey rear extension; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

London Academy Of Music And Dramatic Arts 155 Talgarth Road W14 2015/03980/FUL

Minor amendment to previously approved application 2008/03482/FUL granted 15th May 2009 'erection of a predominantly four-storey building providing approximately 3180 square metres of teaching accommodation, and a practice theatre (approximately 1809 square metres) with ancillary fly-tower and related facilities. (See also conservation area consent ref. 2008/03610/CAC).'
Alterations to include: changes to roof level plant, photovoltaics and louvres; changes to the facade design, such as variations in projecting fin profiles and cladding materials; and changes to fenestration, door opening and roof lights.

Flat First And Second Floors 25 Gunterstone Road W14 2015/04185/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 3no. rooflights in the front roofslope; conversion of the first, second and third floor level into 1no. one bedroom and 1no. two bedroom self-contained flats.

17 Luxemburg Gardens W6 2015/04114/FUL

Alterations and enlargement of the front lightwell; erection of column and railings to the boundary wall in between 17 and 18 Luxemburg Gardens; paving of the front courtyard; installation of a new gate, erection of bin store and replacement of the front entrance door; erection of a single storey rear extension; alterations to rear ground floor fenestration; associated landscaping (Revised description).

158A St Olaf's Road SW6 2015/04179/FUL

Replacement of all existing single glazed sash timber windows to front, side and rear elevations at first and second floor levels with double glazed sash timber windows.

17 Ravenscourt Square W6 2015/04014/FUL

Erection of a single storey extension to the side of the main building; replacement of two windows to rear elevation at ground floor level with two French doors; replace existing Juliette balcony to rear elevation at first floor level with new Juliette balcony; alterations to the existing windows in side elevation at first floor level to rebuild timber wooden shutters; erection of railings and gate to the front of the property.

Old Parr's Head 120 Blythe Road W14 2015/03977/FUL

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a two storey side extension at first and second floor level, on top of the existing ground floor extension; erection of a rear extension at third floor level, on top of the back addition, in connection with the creation of a two bedroom self-contained flat at third floor level.

1 Studdridge Street SW6 2015/04049/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; installation of a new door with a Juliet balcony in the rear roofslope; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; alterations to the roof of single storey back addition; excavation of the rear garden and part of the front garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

28 Binden Road W12 2015/04209/FUL

Erection of a two storey side extension at ground and first floor level to the side of the main building; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; replacement of existing rooflight in the front roofslope; and associated landscaping including the felling of 2no. trees in the rear garden.

44 Racton Road SW6 2015/04095/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope; erection of a two storey rear extension at second floor and third floor level; replacement of existing window with French doors and the formation of a roof terrace at first floor level to the rear elevation; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

Latymer Upper School Boat House 40A Upper Mall W6 2015/04168/FUL

Erection of extensions at first and second floor level; formation of a roof terrace and an open top plant room at second floor level; alterations to the external fenestration of the Boat House; replacement of existing windows with new windows at first floor level to the western elevation; replacement of existing door with a new door and installation of a new security gate at ground floor level; installation of new glazing at first, second and third floor level to the eastern elevation; installation of new security gates and the replacement of existing door with a new door at ground floor level; installation of new glazing at first, second and third floor level to the southern elevation.

99A Moore Park Road SW6 2015/04215/FUL
Erection of an additional floor and raising of the party walls at roof level; erection of a three storey rear extension at first, second and third floor level following the removal of existing roof terrace at first floor level; formation of a roof terrace at fourth floor level to the rear elevation.

45A Goldhawk Road W12 2015/04119/FUL

Demolition of existing single storey bar/restaurant (Class A3/A4) building, erection of a 4 storey building comprising of 300 sqm office use (Class B1) at ground floor level, 7 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats (Class C3) at first, second and third floor level; formation of roof terraces at first and third floor level, balconies at second floor level, cycle parking and refuse storage at ground floor level; associated landscaping.

51 Townmead Road SW6 2015/04076/VAR

Variation of Condition 3 of planning approval 2013/02290/VAR dated 4 April 2014 to enable the relocation of the substation, William Morris Way units and pedestrian access route within Phase 2 and the addition of B1 use to the commercial units fronting Central Avenue

38 Lysia Street SW6 2015/039912/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement; installation of three rooflights in the front roofslope.

71 Ravenscourt Road W6 2015/04170/FUL

Erection of a part one, part two store rear extension at lower ground and upper ground floor level; enlargement of the existing balconies at upper ground and first floor level at the rear elevation to form roof terraces; installation of new French doors at upper ground, first and second floor level, new windows at upper ground and first floor level, new sliding doors at lower ground floor level at the rear elevation to replace the existing doors and windows; erection of new external staircase from upper ground floor to garden level at the rear of the property.

West London Free School Cambridge Grove W6 2015/04112/FUL

Demolition of existing single storey extension and the erection of a replacement two storey extension to provide 6no classrooms at the western elevation of the site.

89 Talgarth Mansions Talgarth Road W14 2015/04172/FUL

Replacement of 3 no. windows to the front elevation, 3 no. windows to the rear elevation and 1 no. window in the concealed alleyway to the rear, all at ground floor level, with double-glazed white framed uPVC sash windows.

19 Parkville Road SW6 2015/04229/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm.

Old Courthouse 43 North End Road W14 2015/00562/FUL

Change of use from offices (Class B1) on ground floor and basement level to 2 x 2 bedroom and 1 x 1 bedroom self-contained flats (Class C3); removal of external fire escape stair at the rear elevation ground floor to basement level; replacement of window on the rear elevation basement level with new door; replacement of existing door opening with new window at ground floor level to the side elevation; replacement of disused fire escape with a new front lightwell.

20 Shorrids Road SW6 2015/04220/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement.

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FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
Former BBC Television Centre Wood Lane W12 2015/04012/LBC
Demolition of internal brick walls behind spandrel panels to one bay of the front elevation of Plot B at first, second, third and fourth floor levels to facilitate temporary hoist operation during redevelopment works and reinstatement of internal brick walls following removal of temporary hoist.

Old Courthouse 43 North End Road W14 2015/00562/LBC
Change of use from offices (Class B1) on ground floor and basement level to 2 x 2 bedroom and 1 x 1 bedroom self-contained flats (Class C3); removal of external fire escape stair at the rear elevation ground floor to basement level; replacement of window on the rear elevation basement level with new door; replacement of existing door opening with new window at ground floor level to the side elevation; replacement of disused fire escape with a new front lightwell; alterations to the internal layout, including construction of new timber studwork/plasterboard partitions; insertion of new kitchen and staircases from basement to ground floor level; new structural openings.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
Old Courthouse 43 North End Road W14 2015/00562/FUL
Change of use from offices (Class B1) on ground floor and basement level to 2 x 2 bedroom and 1 x 1 bedroom self-contained flats (Class C3); removal of external fire escape stair at the rear elevation ground floor to basement level; replacement of window on the rear elevation basement level with new door; replacement of existing door opening with new window at ground floor level to the side elevation; replacement of disused fire escape with a new front lightwell.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 4th October 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13
141 Goldhawk Road W12 2015/03713/FUL

I give notice that Mrs Sedall is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Change of use of basement and ground floor level from retail (Class A1) into a three bedroom self-contained flat (Class C3); erection of a two storey rear extension at basement and ground floor level; formation of a front lightwell; replacement of the front glazing and door with new double glazed units; associated landscaping at the rear.

127 - 129 Wandsworth Bridge Road SW6 2015/04121/FUL

I give notice that Mr Tom Appleton is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of an additional floor at roof level to no. 127 Wandsworth Bridge Road; erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 150mm and installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofslope to no. 129 Wandsworth Bridge Road; alterations to the fenestration including the replacement of existing windows with new windows at first floor level; replacement of existing door with a new door at ground floor level to the rear elevation to no. 127 Wandsworth Bridge Road; conversion of first and second floor level to provide 2 x one bedroom and 1 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

Land Rear Of 15 Pavilion Terrace Wood Lane 2015/03255/FUL

I give notice that Mr Paul Hooper is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a single storey office building to replace the existing double garage to the rear of 15 Pavilion Terrace and formation of refuse storage at its front of office entrance facing Glenroy Street.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 4th October 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office
RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

lbhf.gov.uk/planning
Online

Public Notices

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(GLIDDON ROAD) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Transport for London works in Talgarth Road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in the above Gliddon Road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Gliddon Road between its junctions with Gunterstone Road and Magravine Gardens.
- An alternative routes for traffic in article 2 would be in place via
a) Hammersmith Bridge Road, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith Broadway, Hammersmith Road and North End Road
b) Gliddon Road, Edith Road, Hammersmith Road, North End Road, Castletown Road, Vereker Road and Baron's Court Road.
c) Talgarth Road, Fulham Palace Road, Greyhound Road, Vereker Road, Comeragh Road and Palliser Road.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on the Tuesday, 29th September 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 29th September and last until the 15th December 2015. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 10th day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(BURLINGTON ROAD) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

- The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate gas mains repair works in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit traffic in the above named road.
- Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Burlington Road between it's junctions with Fulham Road and Rigault Road.
- An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be provided via Rigault Road, Landridge Road and Fulham Road.
- Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
- The Order would come into operation on Monday, 28th September 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
- Works would be expected to commence on Monday, 28th September 2015 and last for 5 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 4th day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LICENSING ACT 2003 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT Harvey Nichols and Company Limited has applied to Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on 10 September 2015 to vary the premises licence at Harvey Nichols, 109-125 Knightsbridge, London, SW1X 7RJ so as to permit the sale of alcohol on the first floor between 09.30 and 22.00 Monday to Sunday and to amend condition 25 attached to the premises licence, as more particularly set out in the application. Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: **Licensing Authority, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, 37 Pembroke Road, London, W8 6PW** to be received by no later than 08 October 2015 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website www.rbkc.gov.uk or at the above address during office hours. The register can be viewed at the above address during office hours.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.

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FOUNDED 1619

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£10.32 per hour 42.5 hours per week

Dulwich College Kindergarten and Infants' School (DUCKS) is an independent school for boys and girls aged 6 months to 7 years, situated in a 70 acre campus in South East London.

The main responsibilities of this post will be the upkeep and general care of the DUCKS buildings and surrounding area.

Closing date: 4.00pm on 11 September 2015 with interviews taking place on 21 September 2015.

Further details are available from www.dulwich.org.uk/appointments or by contacting 020 8299 9326/5183.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. A DBS Disclosure is required to Enhanced level. Charity 1150064

 **Chestnut Grove Academy**
45 Chestnut Grove, Balham, London SW12 8JZ
Headteacher: Christian Kingsley MA MSC NPQH
Ofsted 2008 'an Outstanding school'

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SIXTH FORM – Administration Assistant
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We are looking for an experienced, enthusiastic, self motivated and flexible individual, to provide an exceptional administrative service within our 6th form for 16-19 year old students.

The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate:

- Strong ICT skills and experience in database management and Microsoft Office, particularly Excel;
- Excellent administrative and business skills;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with students & adults;
- The ability to meet deadlines and work on own initiative;
- A minimum of GCSE level C in English & Maths.

Further information and an application pack is available from the school's website: www.chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk or by contacting Sheila Payen on 0208 673 8737.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday 23rd September, 2015 at noon
INTERVIEW DATE: Monday 28th September, 2015

ALL POSTS SUBJECT TO DBS CHECKS

Chestnut Grove is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

www.chestnutgrove.wandsworth.sch.uk



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We wish to appoint an Assistant to the Income Recovery Officer.

The successful candidate is expected to be well organised, self-motivated and have office experience in an accounting field.

Previous experience in a busy resident-led environment is preferred but not essential.

First class IT and data management skills, together with the ability to liaise with staff and public on your own initiative are essential.

The job description and application pack can be requested from the Estate Office can be downloaded from <http://www.watmos.org.uk/about-us/working-for-us/current-vacancies>

Closing date for applications 25th September 2015 at 12.00 noon

Ethelred TMO is seeking to achieve a workforce representative of our diverse society and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

QUALIFIED GAS TEAM LEADERS

LONDON DEPOT

GOOD REMUNERATION PACKAGE, PLUS BENEFITS Ref: 15189ext

SGN operates over 74,000km of gas mains and services in Scotland and the south of England. Whoever your supplier is, we have a responsibility to deliver gas safely, reliably and efficiently to every one of our 5.8 million customers.

We currently have vacancies for experienced Team Leaders in our London Depot, working predominately on gas mains and service replacement and repair activities. Applicants must live in or close to South East London.

Applicants should have GNO2 in service laying or main laying and be prepared to undertake training to gain Escape, Locate and Repair accreditation. Applications will also be considered from applicants who are experienced/qualified team leaders in other utility or construction disciplines (water/electricity/telecoms, etc).

You will have a flexible attitude to work, and be willing to take on new skills in order to further your career in the gas industry.

The work is physically demanding and candidates need to be able to demonstrate the ability to work in a variety of outdoor environments, use computer field systems and achieve high standards of safety and technical competence.

A current driving licence is required. Applicants will need to demonstrate good inter-personal skills, including the ability to deal with members of the public. You will be expected to work variable hours and participate in a 24 hour standby rota.

GAS OPERATIVES (NC01)

LONDON DEPOT

GOOD REMUNERATION PACKAGE, PLUS BENEFITS Ref: 15189ext

SGN operates over 74,000km of gas mains and services in Scotland and the south of England. Whoever your supplier is, we have a responsibility to deliver gas safely, reliably and efficiently to every one of our 5.8 million customers. We currently have a vacancy for a gas operatives (NC01) in the London Depot. Applicants must live in or near South East London. Gas operatives work predominately on gas service and mains repair activities.

Applicants will preferably hold NCO1 accreditation, and you will need to be prepared to undertake physically demanding work involving excavating and digging in the public/private highways laying and repairing gas pipes. You will need to be able to demonstrate the ability to work in a variety of outdoor environments safely and as part of a team, use computer field systems and achieve high standards of safety and technical competence. Appropriate training will be provided.

You will have a flexible attitude to work, and be willing to take on new skills in order to further your career in the gas industry. A current driving licence is required for all of the posts. Applicants will need to demonstrate good inter-personal skills, including the ability to deal with members of the public. You will be expected to work variable hours and participate in a 24 hour stand by rota.

To apply, please download an application form from our website www.sgn.co.uk or request one from jobs@sgn.co.uk. Completed forms should be emailed to jobs@sgn.co.uk or returned by post to Human Resources at the address shown on the top of the application form quoting the relevant reference number.

The closing date for application forms is Friday, 25 September 2015.

SGN is an equal opportunities employer



Clerical/Administration

One Part Time Admin/IT posts available for General Practice in London SE1

We are based over 2 sites which are less than 10 minutes' walk from each other. The successful candidate will be expected to work over both sites.

One Administrator with good IT skills to work 24 hours per week / 4 days 9.00 - 4.00pm (1 hour lunch break).

Salary range from £9,360 to £9,984 and 5 weeks annual leave per year.

To apply please request an Application Form and email to Sonia.mcvinnie@nhs.net

Part Time

Part Time afternoon Receptionist wanted for General Practice in London SE1

We are a busy practice with over 15,500 patients and we offer a range of services to our registered population. We are based over 2 sites which are less than 10 minutes' walk from each other. The successful candidate will be expected to work over both sites.

We are looking for a Receptionist with good customer care skills to work 21 hours per week from Monday to Friday afternoons.

Salary range from £8,190 to £8,736 and 5 weeks annual leave per year.

The successful candidate will be entitled to join the NHS Pension Scheme

To apply please fill in the attached Application Form and email to Dominika Mencil Da Silva at nika.mencil@nhs.net

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Salary £21,120 FTE (£14,784 pro rata)

Further Information, person specification and application form are available from Mr E Gooch, School Business Manager. Telephone 020 8683 9482 or email egooch@stmartins.academy

Closing date: Friday 25th September.

Clerical/ Administration

ADMINISTRATOR/ PAYROLL

Required for recruitment office in Croydon. The experienced candidate will have excellent communication skills and be able to prioritise workload to meet deadlines.

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Green in red game-changer

GOALS change games and so do red cards. QPR looked to be on their way to a fourth straight win until their goalkeeper Robert Green was sent off in Saturday's home defeat by Nottingham Forest, who came from a goal down to win 2-1 against 10 men.

Green's poor first touch from an awkwardly bouncy Nedum Onuoha backpass resulted in him sending Chris O'Grady tumbling to ground inside the box, leaving referee Keith Hill with little alternative but to award a spot-kick and give Green his marching orders.

Replacement keeper Alex Smithies failed to keep out Henry Lansbury's drilled penalty and was beaten again shortly afterwards by Nelson Oliveira, who sidefooted home from 15 yards to clinch Forest's first away win since February.

R's head coach Chris Ramsey said: "I thought the backpass was poor and Rob made a decision, thought he could deal with it and unfortunately the guy (O'Grady) did well to keep running at him and cause him to bring him down."

"Then for the winning goal, I thought we could have defended that better. That goal wasn't

down to us being down to 10 men – it was poor defensive play.

"It's very disappointing. At the time we had 11 players on the field I thought there was only going to be one winner."

After a dismal first half of few chances, Charlie Austin had given R's the lead in the 65th minute with his fifth goal of the season from 20 yards. The striker made the chance for himself by shrugging off his markers, running into space and then driving a low, left-footed strike inside the keeper's near post.

Context

But the Green dismissal altered the context of the game and QPR missed out on a fourth straight league win, ahead of Blackburn Rovers' visit to Loftus Road last night (Weds).

"The game changed on that one moment," said Ramsey.

"I've no complaints with the penalty and the red card – it was the



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald



■ **OFF!** Robert Green is given his marching orders
Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South Digital South

right decision.

"I felt we were in control in the second half until the sending off."

"Rob doesn't need to hold his hands up. He's a professional keeper, who has been in the game a long time – there's no need for an inquest."

"These things happen. The game flipped on its head after that."

He added: "I felt we weren't quite on top of our game in the first half and they shaded things."

"We didn't get the ball to our front players quick enough. But we were on the front foot in the second half and scored when we were on top."

"I can take some positives from the way

we played for 20-odd minutes in the second half but we should have started like that.

"I felt we were comfortable and would go on to score more goals after Charlie opened the scoring but then the mistake gave them the initiative."

"The fact is you go down to 10 men, they get the lifeline, and then they did a very professional job on us."

R's will welcome Green back for the visit to fellow promotion contenders Hull City on Saturday.

Then, the following Friday, it's the eagerly-awaited west London derby, when R's make the short trip to Craven Cottage for the live televised Championship clash with Fulham.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, September 19
CHELSEA v Arsenal, 12.45
Hull City v QPR, 3.00
Sheffield Wednesday v FULHAM, 3.00
Tuesday, September 22
FULHAM v Stoke City (Capital One Cup 3R), 7.45
Wednesday, September 23
Walsall v CHELSEA (Capital One Cup 3R), 7.45
Friday, September 25
FULHAM v QPR, 7.45



■ **ON A ROLL:** Moussa Dembele has scored in Fulham's last two home games ahead of the west London derby
Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

■ **AFTER their thrilling Royal London One-Day Cup semi-final exploits, Surrey's full attention turns to their clash with Gloucestershire in the ODC final at Lord's this Saturday.**

With promotion to the first division of the LV= County Championship already assured, they will be looking to land some welcome silverware in the 50-over contest.

Sri Lanka legend Kumar Sangakkara played one of the finest knocks of his long career at The Kia Oval as Surrey beat weakened Nottinghamshire by four runs to reach their first Lord's final in four years.

The 37-year-old former Test star hit 166 out of Surrey's total of 300-5 in last week's semi-final. Sangakkara's knock was the best in English one-day cricket this season, the highest score since South African Jacques Rudolph made an unbeaten 169 for Glamorgan against Sussex at Hove in August 2014.

Notts Outlaws slumped to 16-3 when teenager Sam Curran took two wickets in two balls.

Greg Smith made 124, sharing big stands with Samit Patel (51) and Dan Christian (54) but, in a pulsating finale, Notts fell just short on 296-7.

Batted for almost three hours

Sangakkara batted almost the whole of the Surrey innings. Arriving at the crease in the third over when opener Steven Davies edged to slip, he batted for almost three hours before holing out off the first ball of the final over. By then he had hit a six and 13 fours.

Notts were able to pick England's Stuart Broad for the first time in a one-day game since he played in their 87-run win over Glamorgan at Lord's in the 2013 YB40 final.

But while he was not needed for one-day international duty against Australia last week, Notts opener Alex Hales and captain James Taylor both were, which weakened the visitors' batting.

When young Curran removed both Riki Wessels and Brendan Taylor in successive deliveries before Michael Lumb also went cheaply, it looked as if Notts had no chance.

But, on his List A debut for Nottinghamshire, former Leicestershire batsman Smith helped turn the game around.

He shared a 92-run stand with Patel before putting on a further 112 with Christian.

Clever captaincy

But a clever piece of captaincy by Gareth Batty got rid of the big-hitting Australian when he snared him in a three-man offside trap at short third man.

Even then, with Smith in such fine form, Notts were still favourites, but he was cruelly run out by Tom Curran backing up.

Their target of 14 from the final over proved too much.

Gloucestershire beat Yorkshire by eight wickets in the other ODC semi-final at Headingley.

■ **FORMER QPR goalkeeper Ron Springett died on Saturday evening following a short illness. He was 80.**

After signing for Rangers as a 17-year-old in February 1953, Springett (right) went on to make 147 appearances in two spells for the club.

In an interview he gave a few years ago, Springett – who made his debut against Norwich City in Third Division South in 1955 – recalled his delight at being offered a pro contract at Loftus Road, having been turned down by Fulham: "I got £10 for signing on and I went straight down Shepherd's Bush Market and bought myself a suit!"

Springett left QPR for the first time in March 1958, when he joined first division Sheffield Wednesday. He played 384 games for The Owls, during which time he gained all of his 33 England caps. Although he didn't play in the 1966 World Cup tournament, he was a member of the triumphant squad.

Ron returned to QPR in May 1967 in an extraordinary part-exchange deal that saw his younger brother Peter – also a goalkeeper – switch from Rangers to Sheffield Wednesday. "I played most of the matches in that 1967-68 season as Rangers gained promotion to the first division for the first time ever. It was a great period for the club and we had some fabulous players such as Rodney Marsh and the Morgan twins. It was nice for me to be there at the start of the modern era of success for Queens Park Rangers," added Ron, who made another 45 league appearances for Hoops before handing over the gloves to Mike Kelly and retiring in 1969.



Surrey serve up cup thrills ... Middlesex aim for second

■ **ALTHOUGH Yorkshire were declared county champions on the first day of their game at Lord's last week, Middlesex maintained their push to secure the runners-up spot with a stunning fight back to inflict a first defeat of the season over the White Rose.**

Yorkshire arrived at Lord's with a 43-point lead over their hosts and opted to put them in on a greenish surface after winning the toss.

The home side were dismissed for 106 on day one and trailed by 193 on first innings.

But they declared on their overnight 573-8 to set Yorkshire 381 to win.

Toby Roland-Jones followed up his second-innings century by taking 5-27 as Yorkshire were dismissed for only 134, despite 62 from opener Alex Lees.

At one stage it appeared as if Yorkshire might win themselves within two days when Middlesex began their second innings a long way behind.

Maiden ton

But 149 from Nick Compton and a maiden Championship ton from Roland-Jones enabled Middlesex to fight back and set Yorkshire a challenging target.

James Harris led the charge when he had England duo Adam Lyth and Gary Ballance both caught behind in the space of three balls.

Roland-Jones then ripped through the Yorkshire line-up as they collapsed from 92-2 to 117-9.

It was left to Tim Murtagh to complete victory when he bowled Steven Patterson, leaving Middlesex 24 points clear of Nottinghamshire in the race for second place. They begin their final championship match of the season against Worcestershire at Worcester next Tuesday (Sept 22).

Keeper Ron remembered



■ **CHELSEA Ladies' excellent run of wins came to a shuddering halt on Sunday when they lost 1-0 to Birmingham City in the quarter-final of the Continental Tyres Cup.**

A second half freekick by Josanne Potter dumped the Londoners out of the cup but they are still on course to win the WSL 1 league title.

SPORT

Thursday, September 17th, 2015

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Chelsea near to crisis point

CHELSEA are in crisis and, frankly, need two very good results in the next two games or their season could implode with catastrophic consequences for some players and boss Jose Mourinho.

The Premier League champions have just four points from their opening five league matches, their worst start to a top flight season since 1986.

They are closer to relegation than the top four and the pressure is mounting.

Saturday's inglorious 3-1 defeat by Everton at Goodison Park, which saw them drop to 16th place in the table, was lamentable. Yes, the west Londoners had lots of possession but as Mourinho has said in the past, it's goals that matter, nothing else.

LWN Sport went to press before last night's opening Champions League encounter at home against Maccabi Tel Aviv – a game Blues were fully expected to win despite their poor start to the league campaign.

Of more relevance will be the result against capital

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

rivals Arsenal, who visit SW6 for Saturday's televised lunchtime showdown.

With keeper Thibaut Courtois likely to be out for at least 12 weeks following surgery to the knee he damaged in training last week, Asmir Begovic will remain between the sticks. He was excellent against Everton, one of the few visitors to emerge from the defeat with credit.

But the Bosnian international is fully aware of the team's disastrous start to the season and talks the talk when dealing with putting things right.

"Of course it was tough at Everton," he said. "The end result was obviously the worst thing. When you go there, you obviously expect a tough game. It was a bad result and we have no time to feel sorry for ourselves."

Trying to assess how and why things have gone wrong, Begovic said: "We lacked a bit of a cutting

edge, a bit of luck – it was a combination of everything.

"If we are not scoring, we get punished at the back."

He tended to agree with a suggestion that the side looks a bit flat: "That is probably a fair judgement. It is a case of getting our season back on track with a good result on Saturday that will get the confidence going again. We need a boost at the moment and hopefully it will come soon."

An £8m summer signing from Stoke City, Begovic does not know how confidence has evaporated so quickly since last season's championship triumph.

Make a difference

"I think we still have good characters in the squad, guys who believe in themselves, players who can make a difference. Sometimes that can be an issue. We have characters and we will not hang our heads."

"Football is like this and you have your bad spells. We will get it out of our system, kick on and get stronger and stronger as the season goes on."

But the big question is: can Chelsea, already 11 points behind leaders Manchester City, win the league



■ JOSE Mourinho needs results to relieve the pressure Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

from the position they are in? City snatched a late winner at Crystal Palace on Saturday to maintain their 100 per cent winning start. They haven't conceded a goal in five games, while Chelsea have let in 12.

Chelsea lost just three games on the way to the title last season; they have already lost that many games in 2015-16.

"We have confidence in this dressing room that we can go on a big run," continued an upbeat Begovic. "Once things start clicking for us, psychologically and physically, we can be a very powerful team and everyone knows that."

One man who has become the focus of the fans' ire is right-back Branislav Ivanovic, who was criticised for not closing down Steven Naismith when he netted the first goal of his hat-trick on Saturday from around 25 yards, just eight minutes after coming off the subs' bench.

The Serbia defender has played badly this season and appears to be targeted by opposition managers as a weak link.

But he, too, knows that Chelsea has the ability to get out of the slump.

"The Everton game was very difficult," he said. "Especially now, when you see that we are not in our top form. I hope we will change it soon. We dominated most of the game but we lost concentration and conceded goals. We are getting punished for all our mistakes."

"I say one thing and this is true. We were one of the best defensive lines in the last couple of years but this is a team, not just the back four. Also the players in front."

"As a team, we played very well and because of that we got results. We have to get back to this form quickly. We have to defend as a team and try to win games on our defence."

Massive game

"Arsenal on Saturday is a massive game – it is always very, very hard against Arsenal but we have to look at ourselves."

"We have to believe one thing – the next game. We cannot think about catching other teams, we just have to win game-by-game. We must not think about anything else."

"One big win and things will change for Chelsea."

A defiant Mourinho, who refused to criticise any of his players publicly, said: "I am not feeling pressure. The results are the worst in my career. They are not adapted to my quality, my status, but I am coping well with the situation."

"I am the man for the job. I don't think there is a better man who could come and do my job."

But, acknowledging Manchester City's perfect start, he admitted: "Even if we win every game between now and the end of season, we still depend on other results."



Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Time for TV evidence to kick in

THE Football League must push for the introduction of goal-line video technology before more teams are denied vital goals in the way Blackburn Rovers had a deserved equaliser snatched away from them at Fulham on Sunday.

Rovers thought their second half supremacy had brought them level at 2-2 when Grant Hanley's effort was cleared by Jamie O'Hara – but replays shown to Sky's live TV audience showed the ball was clearly in.

However, because the linesman's view of the ball was obscured by O'Hara and the near post, the officials were not in a position to award the goal.

Such incidents are rare but getting decisions wrong can prove costly if they end up affecting the key promotion and relegation issues.

Video evidence has been used in the Premier League for the past two seasons. Now it's time the Football League followed suit – even if the cost of implementing the 'goal decision system' means that only Championship clubs adopt the technology.

Over the line

Fulham manager Kit Symons admitted Blackburn had been denied a perfectly good goal. He said: "I've only seen the still of the ball afterwards and it looks like it's over the line. I've always been an advocate of goal-line technology but not today!"

Symons could afford to smile at Rovers' expense. He had just seen his side move into the top half of the table with a fortunate 2-1 win, their first in the league at Craven Cottage this season.

Apart from surviving the goal that wasn't, Fulham were also

relieved when a thumping shot from Bengaly-Fode Koita crashed against the post in the 90th minute.

"I'm not going to apologise for us having a bit of luck," said Symons. "We've had a lot of bad luck to deal with."

Whites led 2-0 at the break through goals from Ross McCormack and Moussa Dembélé after an impressive first-half display. It was a different story in the second half as Rovers turned the screw, pulling one back through Jordan Rhodes' penalty.

"I thought we played really well first half and created a lot of chances," said Symons. "They had a couple as well, don't get me wrong, and Andy Lonergan made some good saves. We played some exceptional stuff but you always want the cushion of that third goal."

"It's a difficult scoreline at 2-0, the next goal is always crucial. Walking

off at half-time, I could hear their players saying they had nothing to lose second half. We knew we'd be in for a bit of a siege and they threw everything at us."

"The penalty they got was a bit soft but they'd had a couple of chances leading up to that. Then there was the one that was ruled not to have crossed the line that looks like it probably did."

Probably? More like certainly did!

The win was Fulham's third successive victory after previous triumphs over Sheffield United (League Cup) and Rotherham United.

"It's good to get on a run of games and especially in front of our home fans," added Symons. "I want to get to the stage where our players and fans turn up to Craven Cottage expecting to win. Without being blasé about it, I want there to be a knowledge that we'll be tough to beat. It's coming."